THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH — OFFICIAL PAPER: VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL, AND B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR — POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY

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LABOR'S REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT

Cabinet Give a Sympathetic Hearing to Labor Last Monday

Metalliferous Mines Act Is Promised By Hon. Wm. Sloan

REPRESENTATIVES of the forces of organized labor of the province held a conference with the provincial government at Victoria on Monday, at which was presented a lengthy list of subjects on which Labor asked that legislation be passed or regulations established for the more thorough protection of the interests of the workers.

The government was represented at the hearing by Premier Brewster and the entire cabinet although Hon. J. D. Patullo, minister of lands, left the conference during the early part of the discussion. The Labor deputation consisted of the coast representatives of the provincial Federation as follows: Joseph Naylor, president, Cumberland; A. S. Wells, secretary-treasurer, Victoria; Joseph Taylor, Victoria; William Yates, New Westminster; V. Midgley, Vancouver; J. H. McVety, Vancouver, and Walter Head, South Wellington.

The subjects presented were, for the greater part, those covered by resolutions passed at the Revelstoke convention, although a few matters were introduced which have come to the front since that time. The presentation of the subjects was divided among the members of the deputation, Messrs. Naylor and Head covering the field of workers in the coal mines; A. S. Wells the questions in connection with elections and franchise; J. H. McVety on subjects connected with the operations in metalliferous mines, electrical workers, stationary engineers and the exemption of church property from taxation; Mr. Midgley on the 8-hour day and fortnightly pay; Mr. Yates on matters connected with electric railway operation, and Mr. Taylor on the question of the poll tax, protection of longshoremen, etc.

Sympathetic Hearing Is Given.

The reception given the deputation is said to have been sympathetic, the arguments being listened to with interest. On many points the premier and other members of the cabinet took part in the discussion or made enquiries in connection with the arguments outlined. The tenor of the comment by the government representatives indicated that on at least some of the points submitted, the government will probably take some action and due consideration was promised on the entire schedule or requests.

On the subjects connected with elections and the franchise, great interest was shown in the suggestion that the system of proportional representation beadopted for provincial elections. The premier suggested that it might be well to have some of the cities of the province adopt this method, and thus educate the people as well as try out the merits of the plan.

Along the same line, the request that all voters be given their franchise rights, whether resident in the constituencies in which they are registered or not, and the provision of at least two months between dissolution and elections, with a special provision for a court of revision during the second month, provoked considerable discussion, and appeared to be viewed favorably. It was pointed out that the principle had already been covered by the granting of the soldiers' vote at the last election. The government representatives seemed to be impressed with the fact that the present system created difficulties for workers engaged in casual labor, who were constantly drifting from point to point.

Other subjects outlined by Mr. Wells under this head were the abolition of election deposits and of property qualifications for municipal offices, and the extension of municipal franchise to bona fide residents, whether paying householders' tax or not.

Minimum Wage for Coal Miners.

Speaking for the coal miners, Messrs. Nelson and Head laid special emphasis on the request for the establishment of a minimum wage of $3.50 per day for all adult miners working underground. It was claimed that this provision would solve many problems now arising in connection with the working of the coal mines. The Oriental labor problem, which is a constant source of trouble, would be at once eliminated were the plan followed.

On the subject of permitting union officials entering on company property to collect dues or transact legitimate union business and the connected question of providing for competition in business in "company towns," the government representatives replied that this problem was now before them as the result of the dispute of the workers at the plant of the Canadian Explosives company.

Other questions presented in connection with the operation of coal mines, were as follows:

Strict enforcement of the Mines Regulation Act, and the removal of all officials who have proved incompetent or neglectful.

An amendment to the Coal Mines Regulation Act which would permit miners to nominate and elect mine inspectors, the miners to have the power to recall any inspectors.

New Metalliferous Mines Act.

On the presentation by J. H. McVety of subjects connected with the operation of metalliferous mines, Hon. Wm. Sloan, minister of mines, made the important statement that he intended to spend his vacation this year among these mines and learn at first hand the problems connected with their operation at this time. He considered the present legislation covering the field to be obsolete, and in need of complete revision. It was his intention to thoroughly re-

(Continued on page 5)

MIDNIGHT MEETING OF STREET CAR EMPLOYEES

Question of Policy on Short Special Runs to Be Discussed

Billiard Team Win Second Round in League Tournament

A SPECIAL MIDNIGHT mass meetmeeting of Pioneer Division of the Street Railwaymen's union will be held in the Odd-Fellows' Hall, Mount Pleasant, next Saturday night. Every member of the division is urged to be present, as the question of the operation of "short specials" will be discussed, and the policy of the division on the point decided. The doors will be open at midnight, and the meeting called to order at 12.30.

The question slated for discussion comes up on a reference from the regular meeting of the division held Wednesday night, at which the matter was discussed at length but, owing to the importance of the matter, it was deemed advisable to have a full meeting pass on the subject.

Some time ago the B. C. Electric traffic officials submitted a new running sheet to the division. This was turned down by the men owing to its including 51 "short specials," on which the average run was only about 5½ hours per day. The company is now working on a new running sheet which will probably be submitted to the men shortly.

As it is anticipated that the revised sheet will also provide for "short specials," the executive of the division discussed the subject at its meeting on Monday evening. The result was the sending of a recommendation to the regular meeting of Wednesday evening, that men should be allowed to sign up for these runs if they so desired, any not covered in this manner to be handled from the depot master's office as extra work. This action was based on the idea that a run of nine hours should be provided before any man should be obliged to sign up.

Men Object to Short Runs.

This recommendation of the executive was debated at length at Wednesday night's meeting, and the outcome was a declaration even in advance of the recommendation. With the understanding that the matter should be again discussed at a midnight mass meeting, the opinion of the men was declared to be that no man should be allowed to sign up for any run of less than nine hours per day. thus leaving any "short special" runs which may be listed on the sheet to be treated from the office as extra work.

It was pointed out that the short runs would naturally fall to the new men, and that, with the cost of living at its present status, it was unfair for any man to be compelled to tie himself down to do a little over 5 hours work daily at the rate of 27 cents an hour. If the work was to be treated as extra work, the same men might possibly take the runs but, by signing up for it, he tied himself up so as to prevent his taking other more desirable runs which might be offered.

At the midnight mass meeting, the executive of the division will fully outline its conferences with the company, at which the questions of "short special" runs was discussed. The matter will then be thrown open for general discussion, and the framing of a resolution which will define the policy of the division on the point.

General News Items.

The question of the Trades and Labor council putting up a candidate at the provincial by-election was discussed on Wednesday night, the meeting deciding that the delegates to the council should follow their individual views when the vote on the subject is taken.

The billiard team of motormen and conductors was successful in the second round of the Commercial League tournament on Monday night, winning out from the Hudson's Bay store. This makes two wins to their credit, as they last week defeated the team from the David Spencer store.

Deep sympathy is expressed by the street railwaymen for Mr. F. H. Levers, one of their North Vancouver fellow employees, whose wife passed away on Tuesday night.

Two members of the division are now confined in city hospitals. Mr. J. W. Dew is lying in ward F of the General Hospital, where he was taken to undergo an operation for appendicitis. The operation was successful, and Mr. Dew is now getting ready to be around again. Mr. W. D. Munn is confined at St. Paul's hospital, but it is hoped that the medical care and attention he is receiving will shortly lead to his complete recovery.

Miss Annie Kennedy, of the B. C. Electric head office staff, is one of the candidates for Queen in connection with the coming War Dance carnival, and is seeking the support of the motormen and conductors in her contest.

CONTRACTORS REFUSE TO OBSERVE UNION PRINCIPLES

Standard Wages and Hours Not Observed on Public Market Alterations.

Reports from the Carpenters' union are to the effect that all efforts to have the work of altering the building at Hastings and Main streets for a public market carried on in accordance with union rules as regards wages and working hours, has been unavailing, the Globe Contracting Co. having refused to recognize union principles on the work.

"I don't think the union can do anything more in this matter," said Business Agent Robinson, of the Carpenters' union. "The place is, however, to be used as a public market, and when it is opened, the union men of the city will be reminded of the conditions now existing and asked to govern themselves accohrdingly."

THE SEAT AND CITADEL OF ALL RULING CLASS POWER

Slaves Can Only be Held in Leash for Exploitation By the Organized Forces of Repression—The State Is the Instrument of the Ruling Class—By the Control of Political Power Alone Can Economic Mastery Be Maintained—Shall the Workers Go Into Politics?—Can They Afford to Stay Out?

THE QUESTION is often asked: Shall the workers, as a distinct class in the community, go into politics on their own behalf? Is political action a failure? To the careful observer of events, are they unfolding themselves beneath our very eyes, there is no longer any question about it at all. It is not, shall the workers enter into political activity on their own behalf and that of their class. The real question is how can the workers avoid taking such action, if they are ever to life themselves from the miserable conditions now surrounding them, and which are becoming progressively worse as time goes on? And that the average conditions of the workers are steadily and irresistibly becoming worse, no sane observer can truthfully deny. It is such a self-evident matter of fact that there never was so wide a margin between the average wage and the wealth output of the average worker, as that which exists today, that it seems almost an impertinence to even refer to it. If there be any doubters left among us, all they need to do to have their doubts removed is to but note the overwhelming magnitude of the great dominant fortunes, and the rapidity with which they have been accumulated, as compared to similar phenomena occurring at any other known period in human history.

How Wealth Is Accumulated

The accumulated wealth of all ages has been nothing but the result of the slavery of those ages. Wealth can accumulate in no other manner than by and through the enforced labor of those who are held in bondage. Wealth does not grow upon bushes, nor yet does it fall down from Heaven as manna is said to have fallen upon the wandering Jews in the wilderness. It is coined into its material expression solely by the labor of working people and it is mobilized into the huge aggregations that are such a marked and outstanding feature of this glorious age, solely by virtue of the fact that these working people are robbed of that wealth which has been brought forth by their labor.

Under no scheme of human invention could such a result be realized except by those who profit by it having at all times at their command a power of repression sufficient to hold the workers to their task and crush any efforts they might be disposed to make in order to appropriate to their own use the wealth they produce.

In other words, those who are to profit by any scheme of slavery, must at all times have the power to make and enforce the law governing the status and activities of the enslaved.

And that is all there is to government, no matter how much we may endeavor to mask its legitimate purpose by pleasing platitudes about its paternal intentions towards those over whom it exercises its power.

Why Labor Cannot Ignore It.

No matter what the workers may attempt in the way of relief from the economic exactions of their masters, the government promptly steps in at the opportune moment and in one way or another nullifies their efforts.

If a strike threatens to win against the interests of the masters, there are numerous ways in which the power of the government may be enlisted to thwart it.

The history of this continent for the past century is replete with instances of strikes being broken, or fancied gains soon nullified either by the acts of governments direct or by means of its courts and other agencies of repression.

In fact, to be absolutely candid with ourselves, we might just as well acknowledge that in spite of all our efforts no permanent gain of real value has come to us through all these years of strikes, boycotts and other similar attempts to beat the powers of government with no other weapons than empty hands, empty pockets and too often empty stomachs.

As workers we cannot ignore the powers of government.

They are there at all times, and are always used against us whenever we seriously interfere with the property interests and exploiting schemes of our masters.

And they are our masters, and for the same reason that the old time chattel slave owners, and later the feudal lords, were the masters of the chattel slaves and serfs of those days.

Because they make and enforce the law determining our status and governing our conduct in the present stage of civilization.

Against that power to make and enforce the law there is no appeal, except that of the seizure of the powers of government by the working class and thus stripping the present ruling class of the sole means whereby it now holds us in subjection, not only to wholesale exploitation, but to wholesale slaughter and rapine whenever the exigencies of their profit-mad civilization demands.

In most civilized states the workers possess the franchise, subject, it is true, to many restrictions. But in so far as the franchise exists, it affords the working class a legal warrant to the conquest of the powers of government, at any time a majority of votes may be cast in approval of such a consummation. And that is what is meant herein by a seizure of governmental power.

Until the working class does conquer the capitalist state, and by such capture virtually spikes its guns, so they can no longer be used against the workers in their struggle for economic betterment and a freer and fuller life, the condition of labor will continually progress from bad to worse. Progress in the other direction is impossible.

Based on Experience.

This position can be no more fittingly corroborated than by a few quotations from the pen of H. E. Boote, in Australian Worker. And it is without desire to flatter that we rise to remark there is no abler pen wielded in the world's Labor press than that of H. E. Boote. He says:

"It is by political action that the exploiters establish and confirm their evil supremacy.

"They use it against us with tremendous effectiveness. They break strikes with it, they lower wages with it, they degrade conditions with it, they fasten chains upon us with it.

"It is a weapon we dare not ignore. We have nothing we can pit against it with the smallest hope of success. It outranges all weapons, and smashes through every known defence.

"There is only one sensible thing to be done. Capture that devastating weapon and use it FOR the people, as it has been used against the people.

And we take occasion to remark that until Labor does take open and manly action along political lines in its own behalf, it cannot expect to rise above the impotent and humiliating position it now so ingloriously occupies in the great scheme of things. And we use the term things advisedly, for what are slaves but things, and deuced common and vulgar things at that.

SHIPYARD WORKERS LEAVE WALLACE YARDS

Blacksmiths Walk Out When Higher Wages Are Refused

Indications That Shipyard Workers Plan United Action

ON TUESDAY afternoon, twenty blacksmiths and their helpers, employed in the Wallace shipyards at North Vancouver, presented an ultimatum on the question of wages and hours. Failing to obtain satisfaction, they laid down their tools and left the yards. The matter has since been taken up with the employers, but the men are still out, no consideration having been given their demands.

Some time ago the blacksmiths in the Wallace yards were receiving only $4 for a nine-hour day. They asked for an advance, with the result that an increase to $4.40 for the mechanics, and $3 for helpers was granted, but no change was made in the working hours. The demands made on Tuesday were for an eight-hour day and a scale of $4.50 for mechanics, and $3.50 for helpers.

It is pointed out by the men that the boilermakers at the yards were recently granted a scale of $4.50 for an eight-hour day, this meaning that the blacksmiths, a craft of the same standing in the metal trades, were working more hours for less wages.

The men who left work have held several meetings during the week, at which it was determined to make a firm stand for the requested increase.

Shipyard Workers Taking a Stand.

The action above noted, taken in connection with the recent successful demands of the metal trades workers in the Victoria shipyards, indicates that with the revival of activities in the shipyards on this coast, the workers intend to take a decided stand for obtaining wages and working conditions which meet the demands of the case.

"As far as the men are concerned," said a worker in the shipyards yesterday morning, "we are asking no more than our just due. It is true that during the slack times we have worked for lower wages than we should but, by so doing, we have enabled our employers to keep their plants in operation, and their heads above water. Now when a season of activity is promised, we feel that our rights should be recognized. Then, again, the cost of living has advanced at such a rate as makes it impossible for us to maintain our families properly on the same wages we obtained last year. It costs from 25 to 30 per cent. more to run a household than it did last year, and, if we only get the same wages, where do we get off at?

"As far as the employers are concerned, I think they will be well advised if they give prompt attention to the men's demands. The situation in the British Columbia shipyards just now is one which demands skilled workers. And you can't get such men and keep them unless they pay the wages. There are shipyards at Seattle and other points on the coast where great activity now prevails, and these employers are offering wages above the union scale for skilled men. With such opportunities offered, the men are naturally going to drift away unless they are given proper treatment at this time."

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BOARD IS DISCUSSED

Final Location of Head Offices Is Not Yet Determined.

Several questions concerning the methods of the Workmen's Compensation Commission were put on the floor of the Legislature during the week, one covering the location of the principal office and the other in connection with a staff appointment.

Mr. Pooley, member for Esquimalt, put the question to the Attorney-General as to whether the headquarters of the Commission was to be in Victoria or Vancouver. In reply, Attorney-General Macdonald said that this question had not yet been definitely settled. Claims in favor of both cities had been presented and, for the present, the office would be in Victoria.

To a query of Mr. Bowser, member from Vancouver, the Attorney-eGneral stated that Mr. F. J. Harding had been appointed accountant and office manager of the Commission at a salary of $150 per month. The appointment was made on February 21, and the appointee, who was an American citizen, had made application for his naturalization papers on February 12.

LABOR TEMPLE MEETINGS DURING THE COMING WEEK

SUNDAY, March 18—Pile Drivers and Wooden Bridge Builders.

MONDAY, March 19—Electrical Workers; Boilermakers; Tailors' Executive.

TUESDAY, March 20—Street Railwaymen; Bookbinders; Railway Firemen; Amal. Carpenters.

WEDNESDAY, March 21—Brewery Workers; Plasterers.

THURSDAY, March 22—Machinists; Milk Wagon Drivers; Shipwrights and Caulkers.

FRIDAY, March 23—

SATURDAY, March 24—

REGINIA CONFERENCE ADOPTS LABOR'S ATTITUDE

Proposal to Encourage Oriental Immigration Is Defeated

Suggestion of the B. C. Fruit Growers Gets the Cold Shoulder

ON WEDNESDAY the Dominion Council of Agriculture, now in session at Regina, dealt a body blow to the efforts of the B. C. Fruit Growers association to lower the bars which now limit Oriental immigration, by asking the authorities to temporarily suspend the Chinese head tax.

The request for the endorsement of the fruit growers' proposal was presented on Monday. It did not meet with a favorable reception and, although the matter was referred to a special committee, Secretary Mackenzie said he was satisfied the sentiment of the delegates was against the plan. On Wednesday the committee brought in its report advising that no action be taken on the matter. This virtual turning down of the proposal was endorsed by a unanimous vote of the council.

Endorses Labor's Attitude.

The request of the fruit growers' was for a modified suspension of the head tax, such as would provide for the entrance of Chinese for agricultural purposese merely during the war period, after which they should be returned.

The stand taken at the Regina meeting, taken in connection with the popular disapproval of the fruit growers' proposal in British Columbia, is an distinct endorsement of the attitude of Labor on the question of Oriental immigration. In the lengthy discussion of the subject at Regina on Wednesday, it was pointed out that any encouragement of Oriental immigration would be a distinctly retrograde step, as the inevitable result would be the lowering of the standard of living in western Canada to a point which was undesirable from the public standpoint.

WOODWORKERS MAY REVIVE LOCAL ON NORTH SHORE

Subject Is Discussed at Meeting Held on Tuesday Evening.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of men employed in North Vancouver in the woodworking trades, was held in the K. of P. hall, to consider plans for the reorganization of the United Brotherhood local on the north shore of the inlet. There was a good attendance at which the proposal was discussed, but it was deemed advisable to lay over final action until another meeting, which will be held next Monday evening. If the suggestion should be carried out, it is possible that arrangements will be made to hold union meetings alternately in Vancouver and North Vancouver.

LONGSHOREMAN HAS PLENTY OF WORK THIS WEEK

Men's Organization Enables Demands to Be Met Promptly

Warning to Workers As to Misleading Character of Reports

THE PAST week has been one of unceasing activity on the Vancouver waterfront, no less than nine large vessels discharging and loading cargoes at the inlet wharves, as well as the usual number of smaller craft. All of which meant a busy week for the "knights of the hook."

The unusual amount of work in connection with the handling of these cargoes proves the wisdom, both as far as worker and employer is concerned, of the International Longshoremen's association. Because of this organization of trained waterfront workers, it has been possible to expeditiously meet the demands of the case in a manner greatly to the credit of the city as a shipping centre. From its Powell street headquarters it has been able to direct the movements of the gangs so as to accommodate the many demands for longshoremen to advantage. Such an arrangement, whereby organized gangs can be quickly shifted en masse from wharves where work is completed to other points where there is a demand for men, meets the situation far better than if there was no organization which was able to systematically handle the work. Such an arrangement is also much to the advantage of the general public.

Longshoremen's Union Kept Busy.

The Powell street office of the Longshoremen's union has been a busy place throughout the entire week. At times the number of workers available was not equal to the demand, and the office staff was compelled to go out into the highways and byways in the effort to meet the needs. "However," the office reports, "we were able to handle the extraordinary demands suddenly made upon us in a manner which won't injure the reputation of Vancouver as a shipping centre."

The week's activity on the waterfront has led to several articles appearing in the daily press of the city as to the great demand for labor at the wharves. "These articles," says the office of the Longshoremen's union, "are of such a character as might tend to mislead workers as to the opportunities for waterfront work. As a matter of fact, it has been a long time since the longshoremen have had such a busy time as occurred last week. On this class of work, it is either a feast or a famine. We had our feast this week, but next week may be a famine. Workers should understand this fact, and not be misled by glowing articles as to the demand for labor to such an extent as to lead them to leave other lines on which they are engaged or can possible secure employment. Under ordinary conditions we have more than sufficient trained workers to meet the demands at the Vancouver wharves. Under the extraordinary conditions of this week, we have had to go out and hunt up men, but workers should not judge the demand entirely on the basis of this week's exceptional activity."

THE AVERAGE WAGE OF LONGSHOREMEN

Employers Suggest $22 Per Week As Proper Figure.

No definite decision has yet been reached as to the amount which the Workmen's Compensation commission shall take as the wages of longshoremen in the computation of any claims which may be presented on account of accidents.

The question was discussed last Saturday at a meeting of Gordon J. Kelly, representing the International Longshoremen's association, with Messrs. E. S. H. Winn and H. P. Gilmour, of the Compensation board, and F. Bodwell, a member of the board's staff. After a general discussion, the matter was laid over, the members of the board stating that any figure which was mutually acceptable to the Longshoremen's association and the employers would be accepted.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Kelly met a number of representative waterfront employers and took up the matter. The employers said they considered the Compensation board should take a weekly wage of $22 as the basis of its dealing with longshoremen. On the basis of data which he had collected, Mr. Kelly suggested a somewhat higher figure as proper. After going over the facts of the case for some time, the conference broke up without reaching a definite decision.

The longshoremen will benefit as the result of the new Compensation Act, even on the basis suggested as acceptable to the employers, as compared with conditions previously prevailing. The old compensation rate to the men was $10 per week, out of which the cost of first aid must be met. On the basis of a wage of $22 per week, the compensation payment would be $12.15 per week, and this would be outside of the cost of first aid treatment.

SHIPYARD WORKERS WILL GET INCREASE

Woodworkers Leave Over Question of Hours for Future Settlement.

The woodworkers employed in the Victoria shipyards, who last week presented demands to their employers for advanced wages and better working conditions, have secured a satisfactory adjustment of the matter, and are still at work. It is understood that the arrangements provide for the men getting the requested advance of pay, but leave over for the time being the question of the observance of the eight-hour day.

Maybe that "silence" in Russia was all right after all. It listens good.

LABOR TO GO AFTER REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL HOUSE

Council Will Run Candidate At the Vancouver Bye-election

Proposal That B. C. Federation Enter Politics Is Also Favored

VANCOUVER Trades and Labor council last night decided that it would place a Labor candidate in the field at the coming Vancouver bye-election, and also gave a strongly affirmative vote on the referendum proposal of the B. C. Federation of Labor, as to that organization entering the political field.

The debate on the council placing a candidate in the field at the Vancouver bye-election was keen and interesting. Many of the delegates came prepared to vote as instructed by their unions, but the delegates gave free expression to their personal views, although the debate, as a whole, was not as exciting as it was supposed would be the case. The proposal that the question be submitted to a referendum vote of the unions had many supporters, losing out by a vote of 28 to 24, while the main question as to the nomination of the candidate was approved by a vote of 32 to 16.

The council decided that the affiliated unions should be asked to submit nominations for the candidate, the names to be sent to the secretary by April 19, the date of the last council meeting for that month.

Del. Kavanagh Starts Debate.

Del. Kavanagh opened the debate by declaring his opposition to the council placing a candidate in the field. He said that the proper sort of political work to be done among workers was of the educational character. It was not a question of merely putting a man in office. The aim of the worker in entering politics was revolutionary, and the mere election of a man to the legislature would mean nothing in the face of the presence of a majority of the master class. Such a man could only act as an obstructionist. It was ridiculous to think that the election of a candidate would lead to concessions being wrung from the master class. Why, even when strikes were declared, the masters only yielded where they were compelled to by the general trend of affairs. As to a platform, if the socialist party was declared to be no longer a factor in the province, the only plank on which the worker could stand was that of the abolition of the existing system. In closing Del. Kavanagh said he would not object to the council entering upon a campaign of education, which had political action at a proper time in view.

Question of Finance Raised.

Del. Benson asked how the proposed campaign would be financed, claiming that the council's recollection of the Labor ticket in the last provincial campaign should show the need of having this matter settled.

President McVety replied that ways and means could be easily arranged, but Del. Benson pressed his point that financial arrangements should be considered before action was taken by the council. He said that Mr. McVety had once told him that the campaign funds usually came in during the last few weeks, but he considered this a very poor method. He did not feel like running a campaign which would cost from $1500 to $2000 on a shoestring until the closing days of the contest. Who was to foot the bill? Was the council, the unions or individuals to be responsible? Some answer should be given this question.

Del. McDonald said that the Brotherhood of Carpenters had discussed the question, and favored the formation of an electoral committee from all affiliated unions. If this course was adopted, the question of finances and methods could be taken up there.

Del. Kermode did not think that half the trades unionists understood the principles of socialism, and thought money could be better spent on the distribution of working class literature among the workers than on a political campaign.

Educational Work Needed.

Del. Ellsworth said that he did not think trades unionists should enter the political field until they were economically united, which was certainly not now the case. Speaking for the Tailors' union, the proposal had been voted down at a meeting by a vote of 28 to 19.

Del. Hubble said the question was not the entrance of the council in the political field, but merely for the coming bye-election. He agreed with Del. Kermode that it was better to spend money on educational work.

Del. Welsh thought the whole question rested on whether the finances could be arranged and the votes controlled This could best be shown by taking a referendum vote of the members of the unions on the question.

Del. Pipes said the matter had already been postponed to allow the delegates to interview their locals. The bricklayers had discussed the question, and almost unanimously approved the plan. As far as educational work was concerned, he had been attending socialist meetings for seven years, and had not seen that much progress was being made with the masses.

Del. Harrison reported that the civic employees favored the proposal, with only one dissenting vote. Del. Brooks said the machinists voted 26 for and 4 against. The cigarmakers were reported by Del. Kirbiltz, and the movie operators by Del. Hansen as unanimously in favor of the plan.

Views of President McVety.

Pres. McVety said that Dels. Kavanagh and Hubble had favored education rather than political action at present, but this was not their view when the socialist party appeared to have a chance. If there was no use in entering political campaigns, why had this party spent thousands of dollars in election deposits? Could it be said that the seat-

(Continued on page 6)

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"Unity of Labor: the Hope of the World"

FRIDAY.....March 16, 1917

IT HAS BEEN looked upon by many as a very plain matter of fact that the dynastic rulers of Germany are but little above the level of sheer maniacs. Every move that has been made by them since the inception of their world conquering theory of spreading German "kultur" by force of arms, backed by low intrigue, has been but additional evidence of their insanity. From the invasion of Belgium down to the latest attempted intrigues against the United States, there has not been a single move made that could have been prompted by anything like a sane understanding of world events. Either these rulers of Germany are stark mad or they afford a study in arrested intellectual development that is more centuries behind that of the rest of the world than one would care to specify.

"WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY."

* * *

What could be more conclusive of either insanity or mental weakness than to suppose that any brand of "kultur," either good, bad or indifferent, could be spread throughout the world by means of an intriguing process that must as effectively disclose its coming and its presence, as does the skunk when he goes forth with evil designs upon the chicken coop. And no part of the civilized world has escaped the offensive stench of this attempt to win laurels for the Hohenzollern dynasty, that most powerful survival of the brutal autocracy of the middle ages, by methods so low, mean and vile that they have long since been eliminated from the permissible ethical and moral code of self-respecting people and nations. What could be more contemptible and vile than the atempt to embroil Colombia, Mexico and Japan in warfare with the United States, by means of low intrigue and cunning, a cunning which, by the way, is not cunning, because it is so crude as to be self-disclosing, like that of the skunk? Could any person or persons for a moment imagine that such methods could achieve the object sought, unless such person or persons were off their mental balance? And yet it seems there are Germans scattered all over the world who are still weak enough, both mentally and morally, to be used for such ridiculous and childish purposes as the blowing up of munition works, bridges, tunnels, ships, etc., of neutral countries, and in the staging of wars between such countries by means of melodramatic intrigue and dime novel cunning. The utter simplicity of the tools and fools that are thus available for use along this line is exceeded in magnitude only by the insane delusions of the governing maniacs that work the oracle of the flamboyant Prussian mediaeval circus.

* * *

And it is this insane holdover from a past age that is now bidding for extermination at the hands of all that is worthy of preservation in modern civilization. It may be likened to a crazy bull running amuck in the china shop of a civilization that is at least reaching out for extended liberties and a more wholesome life. And with a relentless certainty, all of the forces that make for a greater liberty, a wider democracy, for human progress and a higher civilization, are marshalling themselves against this insane menace to all of those things for which the human race instinctively reaches out and struggles to attain. The Prussian lunacy represents a stage of political development that was normal two or three hundred years ago. It becomes lunacy now, because the overwhelming preponderance of the world's political opinion has become democratic. It is two or three hundred years in advance of that of Prussian junkerdom. Hence that which was at one time sane and normal, because it was in political tune with its time, has now become insane and abnormal because it is not abreast of, and politically attuned to this day and age.

* * *

"Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad." In other words, that which is to be eliminated by any living and growing organism, must first be rendered a nuisance to that organism. Then it will be gotten rid of, no matter how serious the process. Autocracy, the supreme expression of which is the military establishment with its brutal indifference to human life and human welfare, becomes an uncontrollable madness in the presence of human aspirations for democracy and liberty. And thus becoming first mad, it becomes divinely fitted for destruction. And it will as surely be destroyed, and thus sloughed off by the social organism, as are other nuisances disposed of by organic bodies in the processes of their growth. And with all due deference to the opinions of our opinionated friends who see nothing in the present war except a scrap for trade, that is just what civilization is now doing in Europe. It is sloughing off an autocratic tyranny, a brutal and tyrannical holdover from a past age, a holdover that has been driven to a frenzy of madness in the presence of a civilization at least two hundred years in advance of the legitimate age and time of such feudal tyrannies. And the German people themselves will be the greatest of gainers once the job is completed.

IN THESE days of high cost of living and the multitude of annoyances that incidentally follow, it becomes a positive pleasure to be able to chronicle any suggestion that might be of value in lessening the cost of living or making provision against a shortage of the necessities of life. Amongst the many necessary thingsthat have been difficult to obtain in sufficient quantities in many parts of the country, and that have risen phenomenally in price in consequence, coal is by no means the least. In many parts of Canada there has been a veritable "coal famine." This has resulted in much discomfort, if not in actual suffering. But fortunately for all concerned, there is no logical reason why such a state of affairs should ever again obtain, for the Commission of Conservation, at Ottawa, has issued a bulletin clearly setting forth a line of action to be followed by all users of coal, that will preclude the possibility of their coal bins ever again becoming empty in time of need.

PREVENTION OF COAL SHORTAGE.

* * *

This delightful bulletin points out that "in Canada many people buy coal in small quantities—often only a ton." Then, if their small quantity happens to be used up at any time in the winter, it may be impossible for the dealer to immediately supply their needs. It may be impossible to obtain enough coal at such times to supply all of the customers requiring coal. "Whereas," says the bulletin, "had they purchased their coal in the summer or autumn, there would be ample supplies available." All of which is so simple and delightfully easy that it is really a wonder that we did not realize it before. Anybody ought to be able to understand that if enough coal was purchased in the "summer or autumn" to last all through the winter, there would be no discomfort and suffering resulting from an empty coal bin. Such being the case, how foolish it is to persist in purchasing in such small quantities as a ton, a sack or a bucketful. Of course, every workingman, either rural or urban, has all kinds of money with which to make purchases during these piping times of high wages and prices, so that limited purchasing power cannot be offered as an excuse. Instead of purchasng a ton at a time, each one should buy at least five or ten tons. Instead of hoarding their fabulous wages, if they are wage-earners, or the equally fabulous sums gathered from the sale of their products if they are farmers, these would-be users of coal should lay in lots of it during the summer months, thus making safe provision against the storm and frost of winter. As the bulletin naively remarks, "buy your coal in the summer. If you have not sufficient storage, enlarge your coal bin."

* * *

It may thus be seen that the Commission of Conservation has you recipients of high wages and fabulous prices for farm products pretty well sized up. It knows that you have the long green, and are too stupid to properly use it without some one furnishes you with the necessary advice and instruction. And to do so is the purpose of the commission, glory be. Buy largely in the "summer or autumn." No matter if your wages are completely swallowed in purchasing enough spuds and other luxuries to keep yourselves and families from starving to death, still buy large quantities of "coal in the summer." Then you will be all right, and in no danger of perishing with the cold. See the point? If you have no more than the price of a sack of coal, or even a bucketful, "enlarge your coal bin," and lay in at least three or four tons "in the summer or autumn." Then you may sit by your roaring fire through the severe winter months and bid defiance to Jack Frost and his keen and cutting humor. And when you say your evening prayer be good enough and grateful enough to call down the blessing of heaven upon the Canadian Commission of Conservation for putting you wise as to how to so easily avoid the uncomfortable experience of becoming frozen stiff because you did not have sense enough to enlarge you coal bin and buy fuel by the carload. What in the world would become of us all were it not for the existence of these wise guardians and saviors who thus so deftly steer us through the perplexing mazes of this glorious, sane and satisfying old capitalist scheme of skinning, torturing, starving, pinching and freezing simpletons and slaves? For even with all of this guiding wisdom, we do not seem to be having a particularly joyous time of it. Without such paternal guidance we certainly would be in a—well, an awful predicament—to say the least.

THE FEDERATIONIST has pointed out upon several occasions the danger that lurks behind the action of the trade unions of Great Britain in surrendering all that they have gained through centuries of struggle, in order to meet the requirements of the ruling class of that country in its conflict with the feudal survival of mid-Europe. We do not for a moment believe that it was really necessary that the workers of Britain should have surrendered any of their hard won rights or privileges, in order to have successfully met the Teutonic onslaught, but we are firmly convinced that they were induced to do so as a part of the deliberate plan of their economic masters to so strip them of all power during the period of the war, as to leave them utterly helpless to resist the increasedly brutal and merciless exploitation that will be imposed upon them during the reconstruction era to follow. And these workers, under the traitorous leadership of knaves within their own ranks, fell for the designing schemes of their masters and are today about as completely stripped of power and means of defense as were their forebears during the days when they bore the yoke of serfdom upon their necks and the capitalist and his wage slavery had not yet been born.

DOING POLITICS IN BRITAIN.

* * *

Concession after concession has been made by organized labor from alleged patriotic motives, until practically everything that had been gained through the struggles of the last century, have been lost. One drastic industrial regulation after another has been imposed upon them, severely limiting the freedom of the individual worker and tremendously increasing the legal powers of the employers. To be absent from work for even a single day, without permission of a medical officer, is an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment, and no worker can change his employment except with the written consent of his boss. From the columns of such old country papers as reach us, we note that a multitude of fines and jail sentences are being imposed upon the workers under the provisions of this new regime of patriotic paternalism, that has been inaugurated for the purpose of safeguarding "liberty and democracy" against the assaults of Prussian military autocracy. It is to laugh.

* * *

As to the peculiarly sinister complexion of the present political executive of British capitalism, little need be said other than to mention the personnel of the Lloyd George cabinet. It contains the names of Lord Rhonda, chairman of the British Coal Trust, and Sir Albert Stanley, managing-director of the London Underground Railway system. The minister of food control, Lord Davenport, is a successful food merchant. Sir Joseph P. Maclay, a prominent shipowner, holds the position of shipping controller. The president of the board of agriculture, Roland E. Prothero, is business manager for the Duke of Bedford, one of the world's richest landlords. Sir Albert Mond is a representative of the Alkali Trust, and both Sir Fredeick Cawley and Albert Illingworth have large interests in England's textile industry. Bonar Law has had a long business career as an iron master. Many members of this interesting cabinet are not even members of parliament, but merely represent different sections of British capitalism. This list is taken from the Australian Worker, which adds, "It is true that the cabinet contains three Labor representatives, but these are of the tame rabbit variety, and of no consequence."

* * *

From the makeup of this particular executive of the ruling class of Britain, it may be readily seen how very cleverly the Lloyd Georges and other guardians of capitalist interests have been doing politics in the interests of their masters, while the stupid workers have been relinquishing all of their rights and privileges in order to better enable their country to win its battles against the tyranny, intrigue and chicanery of the "Hun." While the simpletons of Labor have thus patriotically surrendered their all, their worthy and unscrupulous masters have been doing good politics for the purpose of hamstringing the Labor movement and leaving the workers helpless and hopelessly shackled for an intensified and merciless exploitation in the hereafter. Were it not so excrutiatingly tragic it would be a fit subject for still further mirth. The capitalist masters may indeed laugh as it is.

We used to hear a good deal how Socialism would destroy the home. If that is really to be the case, it will have to hurry.

Enlist today! Bob Rogers and R. B. Bennett need the money. An "alien enemy," a Chink, or your sweetheart will do the work, at starvation wages.

If the British government needs men to do manual labor in the old land, why not hire Chinamen and bring them to England? Cost less than taking white men from Canada and importing Chinks to replace them here. Still, there isn't much difference in the pay, after all, when one comes to think it over.

In New Zealand conscription has been forced upon the people as the arbitrary act of a capitalist government. Will some person who decries political action upon the part of the workers inform us whether such action was an exercise of economic power or political power? Or again, was it or was it not direct action?

"After all, isn't it absurd to have to plead with and persuade the people to take charge, through their government, of their own business affairs? Yet this is what must be done. The majority of the people still cling stupidly to the belief that our important public industries can be best managed by private capitalists. And this in spite of the mass of facts to the contrary."

All exchange values are produced by labor. It is the only creative force outside of divinity, and some people even entertain doubts as to the latter. If labor produces all exchange value, what would constitute the laborer's fair share of what he produces? Who upon any pretense of moral right could justly lay claim to any share thereof except the laborer himself? Will the parson please answer?

Not knowing the meaning of the title "Stipendiary Magistrate," a curious reader consulted the dictionary and found that "stipendiary" signifies hireling. This coupled with some experience he at one time had when hauled before such a magistrate in far New Zealand, brought him to a healthy realization of the fact that even the titles bestowed upon public officials were sometimes chosen with a most pronounced inclination to preserve the heavenly harmonies and do no unnecessary violence to the eternal fitness of things.

The more baby war bonds the government can induce the workers to buy, the less inclined will those workers be to repudiate the debt when the time comes to do so. But it will take more than that to stave off a social revolution at the close of the war. The workers are about fed up on seeing patriotic profiteers wallowing in legally stolen swag while they go short of eats and do all the work.

Quite a number of political hangers-on would have had to enlist or starve by this time had it not been for the many appointments of commissions to inquire into the h. c. of l. A man with a blind eye and a cork one could see that all that's the matter with the food supply in Canada is that a bunch of legalized robbers own or control it all and are simply demanding their pound of flesh. The modern name of it all is Business.

Capital is a joke. It is also a fake. Stripped of all nonsense and moonshine it is nothing but the control of labor. The capitalist does nothing except own the product of labor. His capital — control of labor—is purely constituted of legal edict, either made by himself or his executive agent, the capitalist state. In vulgar parlance, it is pure "bull con," backed up by the club. While it is really a laughable fake, it is a most serious and unsavory joke to the toiling slaves who are its victims.

The Labor Press. What a wonderful thing it could become were the workers to give it the loyal support that they give to the great dailies. With a fully equipped labor press driving home the great facts of modern industrial conditions new worlds could be conquered by the tramping feet of millions of industrial soldiers. Just give a few stray thoughts to this proposition. It might give you much illumination. It might result in getting you to do your duty along this particular line of effort. — Progressive Labor World.

The first strike of American workers occurred in 1802 in New York City. John Bach McMasters, in his "History of the People of the United States," relates that sailors who were receiving $10 a month demanded an increase to $14. This being refused, they left their work and marched along the river front, headed by a brass band. They coaxed or compelled other sailors to join the procession. However, "the constables were soon in pursuit, arrested the leader, lodged him in jail, and so ended the earnest of labor strikes." —Progressive Labor World.

Just to show how war helps business it might be well to note that the Dupont Powder Company sold but $150,000,000 worth of powder during the year 1915, but this was increased to $318,000,000 for the year 1916. It is true that war results in the killing and maiming of quite a number of persons, but what ice does that cut alongside of the nice juicy profit that is brought to the horny hands of the toiling and sweating powder barons and other equally worthy and deserving ones? Long live war, glorious war. War uber alles.

If wages represent the exchange value of the labor power of a worker, which is purchased as a commodity in the market by the employer, and the supply of labor power in the market is at all times fully equal to or in excess of the demand for it, by what process of reasoning can any sane person arrive at the conclusion that its price can be forced above the actual cost of its production? If the labor power of the worker is not a commodity and subject to the same merciless though unwritten laws of the market as any other commodity, will some equally sane person be kind enough to explain what it is?

"A nation in tears is the business man's opportunity." A broken heart is a poor weapon with which to fight the daily battle for bread. And as the corporations in Canada have no souls or hearts to break, they are making the most of the nation's sorrow by insisting that their hired men in the legislative halls confine National Service to wage-workers, while they are at full liberty to pilfer and plunder at will. Unheard of profits are being coined out of war conditions, while the immediate friends of those who are doing all the work and most of the fighting are in many cases going hungry. It's about time sorrow was converted into anger and the bunch of profiteers infesting Canada called to account. Fewer farcical "investigations" and a little action is what is needed. Small wonder enlistments are falling off.

In view of the fact that every effort of organized labor to better the conditions of employment and living is frustrated and nullified by the powers of government, it is indeed an edifying spectacle to see that gallant galaxy of great American labor leaders, including Mr. Gompers, and the various heads of the railway brotherhoods, hastening to vociferously assure the government authorities at Washington that organized labor may be absolutely depended upon for loyalty and sacrifice in case of war. Especially in view of the neat and effective manner in which the governing authorities have side-stepped and so far nullified the efforts of the railway men to obtain the eight-hour relief for which they have so earnestly yearned, this offer of cringing loyalty and sacrifice affords an illustration of "licking the hand that wields the lash," that makes the canine exemplification of that slavish performance look like the work of an amateur.

The premier of Manitoba brought into the legislature a grandiloquent motion which "declared that in order to bring the war to a successful conclusion, the obligation rests upon each citizen to respond to the demands which may be made upon him by the authorities entrusted by the people with the responsibility, with regard both to his personal services and his financial resources." With the very laudable purpose in view of making the Premier's motion mean something tangible, R. A. Rigg offered an amendment to the effect "that this should include an immediate conscription of wealth and the taking over of the essential industries of the country by the government." And out of that august body but two votes were recorded as in favor of the amendment. These were the votes of Rigg and Dixon. It may thus be seen that even patriotism has certain limits beyond which it cannot go. Which leads one to feel sure it is mostly noise and bluster in the great majority of cases.

The imprisonment of Karl Liebnecht created a vacancy in the Prussian legislature. Liebknecht held the seat for the Potsdam division in that body. Potsdam is the home of the kaiser, let it not be forgotten. At the election recently held for the purpose of filling the seat, the revolutionary Socialist candidate was elected by an overwhelming majority. The elections for the Prussian legislature are indirect, the electors voting for delegates, who, in turn, vote according to instructions received from the electors. Out of a total of 288 delegates, 218 were revolucial Patriots, professing to represent the triots — professing to represent the majority of the Social Democratic Party, that valiant aggregation that has even outdone the very Junkers themselves in patriotism and loyalty to the kaiser and his schemes—while the combined non-Socialist parites were represented by the remaining 44. Revolutionary Socialism is evidently not yet dead in Germany, as some so fondly have hoped. It is a safe prediction that the "red spectre" will survive the storms of war and still haunt the dreams of monarchs and profit lords in the days to come, with an even greater and more stubborn persistence than before the dogs of war were unleashed.

According to the news dispatches, Lieut.-Col. Williams, a naval recruiting officer, is authority for the assertion that "conscription is coming for a certainty." This is a statement he is alleged to have made during an address at Calgary last Sunday evening. "While I cannot say the exact date at which conscription will be introduced, it is sure to come. I only wish I could set the date," he added. And then for good measure he volunteered a word of admonition to the "slackers" by saying that "those who did not go to war voluntarily would soon be forced to go." We, too, would like to fix a date, and it would be that upon which a fancy job lot of loud-mouthed recruiting boosters would depart for the firing line in France, where they would be able to do more effective shooting for their country than in loafing around here in Canada, some three thousand miles from all danger, just merely shooting off their mouths. To be absolutely candid about it, we are unable to distinguish between the respective merit of a dyed-in-the-wool "slacker" and a noisy braggart who incurs no greater danger than that involved in bullyragging others into a real danger zone. At any rate the despised dyed-in-the-wool "slacker" does not do his slacking for so much per. And that is one point in his favor at least.

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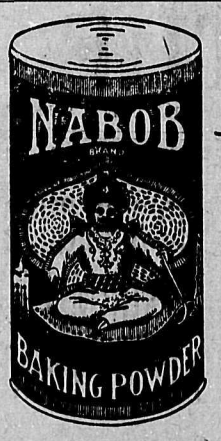

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STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY EMployees, Pioneer Division, No. 101—Meets Labor Temple, second and fourth Wednesdays at 8 p.m. President, J. Hubble; vice-president, E. S. Cleveland; recording secretary, A. V. Lofting, 2561 Trinity street, phone Highland 168R; financial secretary and business agent, Fred A. Hoover, 2409 Clark drive, office corner Prior and Main streets.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS' UNION OF America, Local No. 178—Meetings held first Monday in each month, 8 p.m. President, J. T. Ellsworth; vice-president, Miss H. Gutteridge; recording secretary, W. W. Hocken, Box 503; financial secretary, T. Wood, P. O. Box 503.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, NO. 226—Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. President, H. C. Benson; vice-president, W. R. Trotter; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P. O. Box 66.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

President—Samuel Gompers, Washington, D. C.; Cigarmakers International union.
First vice-president—James Duncan, Quincy, Mass.; Granite Cutters' International union.
Second vice-president—James O'Connell, of Washington, D. C.; International Association of Machinists.
Third vice-president—W. D. Mahon, Chicago, Ill., Street Railway Employees' union.
Fourth vice-president—Joseph Valentine of Cincinnati; Molders' union of North America.
Fifth vice-president—John R. Alpine, Chicago; United Association of Plumbers.
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Seventh vice-president—Frank Duffy, Indianapolis; United Brotherhood of Carpenters.
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Treasurer—John B. Lennon, Bloomington, Ill.; Journeymen Tailors of North America.
Secretary—Frank Morrison, Washington, D. C.; International Typographical union.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF THE UNITED BREWERY WORKMEN
Union MADE Beer — Ale AND Porter — IS OF AMERICA
COPYRIGHT & TRADE MARK REGISTERED 1903
Vote against prohibition! Demand personal liberty in choosing what you will drink. Ask for this Label when purchasing Beer, Ale or Porter, as a guarantee that it is Union Made. This is our Label

SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS.

COAL mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the North-West Territories and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years renewal for a further term of 21 years at an annual rental of $1 an acre. Not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Application for a lease must be made by the applicant in person to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal sub-divisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5 which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, rescinded by Chap. 27 of 45 George V, assented to 12th June, 1914.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—Unauthorised publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—83575.

PROVINCIAL UNIONS

B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR—Meets in annual convention in January. Executive officers, 1917-18: President, J. Naylor, Box 415, Cumberland; vice-presidents—Vancouver: Jas. H. McVety, V. R. Midgley, Labor Temple. Victoria: J. Taylor, Box 1315. Vancouver Island: W. Head, South Wellington. Prince Rupert: W. E. Thompson, Box 694. New Westminster: W. Yates, 906 London street. Kootenay District: A. Goodwin, Box 26, Trail. Crows Nest Valley: W. B. Phillips, 176 McPherson avenue. Secretary-treasurer: A. S. Wells, Box 1538, Victoria, B. C.

VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor Hall, 1424 Government street, at 8 p.m. President, E. Christopher, Box 387; vice-president, Christian Sivertz, 1278 Denman street; secretary, B. Simmons, Box 302, Victoria, B. C.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STEAM AND OPERATING ENGINEERS—Local 446, Victoria, B. C. P. O. address Box 92. Local union meets first and third Sunday, 10 a.m. Place of meeting, Labor Hall, DeCosmos blk. President, J. Johns, 322 Dallas road; secretary, J. M. Amer, 1045 McClure street; business agent, S. Cullum, phone 1101R.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

BARTENDERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE of America, local 784, New Westminster. Meets second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Secretary, F. W. Jameson, Box 496.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C.

PRINCE RUPERT TRADES AND LABOR Council—Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, in Carpenters' hall. President, S. D. Macdonald; secretary, J. J. Anderson, Box 278, Prince Rupert, B. C.

SOUTH WELLINGTON, V. I.

LOCAL UNION, NO. 872, U. M. W. OF A.—Meets second and fourth Sunday of each month, at 3.30 p.m., Richards Hall. President, Walter Head; vice-president, Wm. Iven; recording secretary, Jas. Bateman; financial secretary, S. Portray; treasurer, J. H. Richardson.

LIST OF UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR

Blacksmiths—Revelstoke—Jas. M. Goble, Y. M. C. A. Box, Revelstoke, B. C.
Brewery Workers—Vancouver—M. C. Austin, 732 7th avenue east, Vancouver, B. C.
Barbers—Victoria—G. W. Wood, 1307 Government street, Victoria, B. C.
Boiler Makers—Vancouver—A. Fraser, 1151 Howe street, Vancouver, B. C.
Boiler Makers—Victoria, A. Stewart, P. O. Box 48, Beaumont, P. O., B. C.
Bookbinders—Victoria — E. Sturgeon, 141 Eberts street, Victoria, B. C.
Bookbinders—Vancouver—W. H. Cowderoy, 1885 34th avenue east, Vancouver, B. C.
Boot and Shoe Workers—Tom Cory, No. 132 Templeton Drive.
Brewery Workers—New Westminster—Jas. A. Munday, 334 Columbia street east, New Westminster, B. C.
Boiler Makers—Revelstoke—A. McMahon, P. O. Box 138, Revelstoke, B. C.
U. B. Carpenters—Victoria—W. Galloway, Labor Hall, Victoria, B. C.
A. S. U. B. Carpenters—Victoria—J. Loy, P. O. Box 770, Victoria, B. C.
U. B. Carpenters—Prince Rupert—F. Salter, P. O. Box 694, Prince Rupert, B. C.
U. B. Carpenters—Nelson—Robt. Jardine, P. O. Box 1006, Nelson, B. C.
U. B. Carpenters—Nelson—G. Fraser, P. O. Box 254, Nelson, B. C.
U. B. Carpenters—Trail—F. Camsell, Trail, B. C.
Cigar Makers—Vancouver—T. H. McQueen, 72 Water street, Vancouver, B. C.
Cigar Makers—Victoria—Gus Roaby, 1255 Pandora street, Victoria.
Electrical Workers—Vancouver—E. H. Morrison, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.
Electrical Workers—Prince Rupert—S. Massey, P. O. Box 944, Prince Rupert, B. C.
Electrical Workers—Victoria—W. Reid, 536 Cecilia road, Victoria, B. C.
Garment Workers—Vancouver—Mrs. Helen Jardine, Labor Temple.
Horseshoers — Vancouver — Thos McHugh, 2045 Pine street, Vancouver, B. C.
Horseshoers—Victoria—R. S. Williams, 622 Pandora street, Victoria, B. C.
Letter Carriers—Victoria—C. Siverts, 1278 Denman street, Victoria, B. C.
Longshoremen—Victoria—Frank Varney, P. O. Box 1315, Victoria, B. C.
Longshoremen—Vancouver—Thos. Nixon, 10 Powell street, Vancouver, B. C.
Longshoremen—Prince Rupert—F. Aldridge, P. O. Box 531, Prince Rupert, B. C.
Moving Picture Operators—Vancouver—H. C. Roddan, 2547 McKenzie street, Vancouver, B. C.
Machinists—Vancouver—J. H. McVety, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.
Machinists—Revelstoke—D. Bell, P. O. Box 234, Revelstoke, B. C.
Machinists—Cranbrook—W. Henderson, P. O. Box 827.
Machinists—Victoria—R. H. Scholes, 2720 Fifth street.
Moulders—Victoria—F. A. Rudd, P. O. Box 31, Beaumont P. O., B. C.
Moulders—Vancouver—W. H. Cooke, 551 Sixth avenue east, Vancouver, B. C.
Painters—Victoria—J. Beckett, Labor Hall, Victoria.
Paper Makers—Powell River—J. E. McGrath, Powell River, B. C.
Pattern Makers—Victoria—Geo. T. Murray, 1043 Sutley street, Victoria, B. C.
Pattern Makers—Vancouver—E. Westmoreland, 1512 Yew street, Vancouver, B. C.
Plumbers—Vancouver—H. Mundell, P. O. Box 1131, Vancouver, B. C.
Plumbers—Victoria—J. Fox, Labor Temple, Victoria, B. C.
Bro. Railway Carmen—Revelstoke—Harry Parsons, Revelstoke, B. C.
Bro. Railway Carmen—Nelson—C. H. Phillips, P. O. Box 908, Nelson, B. C.
Bro. Railway Carmen — Vancouver — H. Brooks, 1360 Graveley street, Vancouver.
Bro. Railway Carmen—Cranbrook—J. Whittaker, P. O. Box 607, Cranbrook, B. C.
Bro. Railway Carmen—North Bend—John McDonald, North Bend, B. C.
Sheet Metal Workers—Victoria—G. Krehling, 1082 Richmond avenue, Victoria, B.C.
Steam and Operating Engineers—W. A. Alexander, Room 216, Labor Temple.
Steam Engineers—Victoria—J. Aymer, P. O. Box 92, Victoria, B. C.
Stage Employees—Victoria—L. D. Foxgord, 1330 Grant street.
Street Railway Employees—Victoria—R. A. C. Dewar, 1287 Johnson street, Victoria, B. C.
Street Railway Employees—New Westminster—W. Yates, P. O. Box 1021, New Westminster, B. C.
Teamsters' Union—Fernie—E. Paterson, P. O. Box 661, Fernie, B. C.
Trades Council—Vancouver—V. R. Midgley, Labor Temple, Vancouver.
Trades Council—Victoria—B. Simmons, P. O. Box 302, Victoria, B. C.
Trades Council — New Westminster — W. Yates, P. O. Box 1021, New Westminster, B. C.
Tailors—Victoria—E. C. Christopher, P. O. Box 387, Victoria, B. C.
Tile Layers—Victoria—T. King, P. O. Box 1212, Victoria, B. C.
Typographical Union—Prince Rupert—A. O. Franks, P. O. Box 1021, Prince Rupert, B. C.
Typographical Union—Vernon—W. J. Dockeray, P. O. Box 541, Vernon, B. C.
Trades Council — Prince Rupert — W. E. Thompson, P. O. Box 158, Prince Rupert, B. C.
Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen—D. A. Munro, 686 Ninth avenue east, Vancouver, B. C.
United Mine Workers—Thos. Fawkes, P. O. Box 389, Cumberland, B. C.
United Mine Workers—H. Beard, Michel, B. C.
United Mine Workers—Thos. Uphill, Fernie, B. C.
United Mine Workers—A. McLellan, Nanaimo, B. C., Jingle Pot Mine.
United Mine Workers—J. H. Armstrong, Ladysmith, B. C.
United Mine Workers—A. Dean, P. O. Box 768, Nanaimo, B. C.
United Mine Workers — James Bateman, South Wellington, B. C.
United Mine Workers—Bruno Saarro, Sointula, B. C.
Western Federation of Miners—
W. B. McIsaac, P. O. Box 506, Ymir, B. C.
W. A. Mowlds, P. O. Box 27, Stewart, B.C.
P. J. Belman, P. O. Box 26, Trail, B. C.
Harry McGregor, VanAnda, B. C.
J. Donoghue, Box K, Sandon, B. C.
F. Labocher, Silverton, B. C.
W. Smith, P. O. Box 294, Phoenix, B. C.
G. C. Marshall, P. O. Box 421, Rossland, B. C.
Roy Burch, Moyie, B. C.
J. Taylor, Kimberley, B. C.
T. R. Willey, P. O. Box 375, Hedley, B. C.
Frank Phillips, P. O. Box 106, Nelson, B. C.
W. Lakewood, P. O. Box 124, Greenwood, B. C.

APPEAL OF BELGIAN WORKINGMEN TO AMERICANS

Appalling Record of German Brutality and Labors' Crucifixion

An Appeal That Should Call Every Workingman to Arms

AN APPEAL of 500,000 Belgian workingmen to their fellow laborers in the United States and Canada was published early in January. Its authenticity is attested by M. Hymans, the Beigian minister to Great Britain, and by Emile Vandervelde, minister without portfolio, and Henri Carton de Wiart, Belgian minister of justice. The day after the German authorities discovered that this appeal had been sent across the frontier into Holland they increased the monthly tribute levied on the Belgians from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 francs. The translation follows:

In the name of the international solidarity of workers, the working class of Belgium, all threatened with slavery, deportation and forced labor for the enemy's benefit, addresses to the working class of America a supreme appeal for assistance, energetic and efficacious. No more words of sympathy, but action. You are men, you understand us. Our situation is desperate.

Germany, as you know, attacked and terrorized Belgium in 1914, because the latter defended the rights of her neutrality—sworn faith and honor. Since then Germany has been torturing Belgium. She has made it a prison. The frontiers are armed against the Belgians like a battlefront—trenches, wires, barbed and electrified, and machine guns. All our constitutional liberties are abolished. No more security; the life of the citizens is subjected to arbitrary policing without limit, as well as without pity.

Germany has imposed upon her victim an immense war contribution which has already passed the thousand million mark and is increasing at the rate of forty millions per month. She carried off and had transported to Germany, under the form of plunder, confiscation, requisition, and forced sales, more than five thousand million dollars' worth of food and merchandise, industrial and agricultural. At the same time she took part of the raw materials of our factories, machines, and accessories. She thus stopped our industry, and brought on a want of work almost general among the working class. For two years the Germans have been keeping up this plaint of want of work until the day—in October, 1916—when Germany, needing hands, could draw upon Belgium for the workmen for whom she had such pressing need.

Yes, the Germans created the Belgian want of work and kept it up to benefit themselves.

By refusing England, who consented to introduce new raw materials, the indispensable diplomatic control to prevent the manufactured goods being taken by the Germans.

By preventing the means of terrible edicts the Belgian communes, associations and private Belgians from giving work to the unemployed, from attending to their professional education, and from employing them in work of public utility.

Thus five hundred thousand workmen were reduced to a state of unemployment and kept in that state.

Contrary to the reports that the Germans spread in foreign countries, these unemployed and their families are not dependent on public budgets, nor on public charity. They were and are supported in all dignity and fraternity, by a private fund, exclusively Belgian, which never complains of its duty, or its mission. The solidarity of the Belgian social classes assures the life of this magnificent work, which is without precedent in the history of the social "entr'aide."

To these 500,000 involuntary unemployed, made so by the Germans and kept so by them, they have been saying for a month:

"You will either sign a contract to work for Germany or you will be reduced to slavery." In either case it means exile, deportation, forced labor for the benefit of the enemy and against our country, dreadful punishments, the cruelest that tyranny ever invented to punish crimes. And what crimes? Involuntary unemployment that the tyrant himself brought about and keeps up.

And as, in spite of the most odious sort of pressure, the Germans have not been able to obtain the signatures—which they dare call voluntary in their official communiques for neutral countries—they seize by force our workmen, your brothers and ours; they arrest them by thousands each day; they tear them from their wives and their children; surrounded by bayonets they drag them to the cattle trains and carry them off to foreign lands, to France and to Germany.

Forced to Labor on Military Works.

On the western front they are forced by the most brutal methods to dig trenches, to prepare military aviation fields, to make strategic routes, to fortify the German lines. And when the victims refuse in spite of everything to do this work forbidden by the law of nations, they ill-treat them, they strike them, they make them ill, they wound them, and sometimes even kill them.

In Germany they throw them into the mines, the quarries, the limekilns, no matter what their age, profession or trade. They deport pele-mele young men of 17 years of age and old men of 60 year and over. Is this not slavery of olden times in its horror? There have been already more than fifty thousand workmen, unemployed or not, who have been thus deported, prisoners or slaves. Each day a new region is raided. They use a dreadful apparatus—machine guns and innumerable soldiers, and the lugubrious military operation against all these poor unarmed people, terrorized but conscious of their violated rights.

Do not forget that the soldiers who make themselves the executioners of the Belgian workers are German workmen. And thus 500,000—maybe 800,000—men will be deported, if you do not prevent it. After the men, the women's turn will come, no doubt; again 500,000.

It is the entire working class of Belgium which is threatened with slavery, with starvation, with death.

Do you know, American brothers, what the Germans throw as "salary" to their victims? Thirty pfennings (about 7 cents) per working day! And the food! * * * what food! * * * The Belgian civil prisoners who come back from Germany after three months of detention have lost one-third of their weight; they are unrecognizable, anæmic, sick; many of them never regain their health; they languish and die. If this is the lot of the prisoners who do nothing, what lamentable lot is in store for the Belgian workmen deported and subjected to the most painful sort of labor?

In a few months our working class, the pride of our free country, will be annihilated in its working force. The day that peace comes there will be no longer any Belgian workmen capable of taking up the great work of the economic reconstruction of that which was prosperous Belgium, whose only crime was to defend without weakness the rights of neutrals to life and honor.

Vain Appeal to German Pledges.

We did everything that this supreme cross of slavery might be spared us.

Our highest social authorities showed the occupying power the supreme injustices and all the iniquity of these measures. The highest court of appeal in Belgium asked it to withdraw its edicts because they were contrary to "natural law, to positive law, to the law of nations."

The Belgian Episcopate, with the eminent Cardinal Mercier at its head, asked it to withdraw its edicts because they were contrary to morals and to its word of honor given. Yes; to its word of honor solemnly given in 1914 by the first governor-general of Belgium, Feld Marshal von der Goltz, who proclaimed: "Never will the young men be taken to Germany, either to be mustered into the army or to be employed in forced labor." It was because they believed the word of honor of the direct representative of the German Emperor that the Belgian workmen came back from Holland after the siege of Antwerp, and that the others remained. This is why the Germans can take them now to deport them and reduce them to slavery. American brothers, will you suffer it?

Our political representatives asked them to withdraw their edicts, because for a Belgian to work for the Germans at this time means to fight Belgium. Does not the presence of each Belgian workmen in Germany permit another German soldier to be sent to the front?

Our chiefs of industries asked the withdrawal of the edicts because thus "all economic life in our country will become impossible and it will be made to draw its last breath."

The workmen, socialists and Catholics, men and women, united in one thought of solidarity, and one anguish, asked the withdrawal of the cruel edicts because they were contrary to rights, to the word of honor given, to civilization, to patriotism and to the dignity of the working class.

All remained in vain. Germany, who has an extreme need of strong arms, did not want to withdraw the application of the edicts for a day nor for an hour. In answer she only sent more soldiers and more machine guns. Now the Belgian working class looks to the neutral powers.

She wonders if this time, in face of this crime of lese-humanite, their conscience in revolt will not inspire at last the energetic gesture which suits the occasion. To allow such an abominable deed to be committed—is it not taking part in it?

The working class of Belgium wonders with anguish if neutral countries this time again will wash their hands, like Pontius Pilate, under pretext that the German calumnies do not correspond to the complaints of their victims.

Belgium, martyr for right, wishes no more verbal contestations nor platonic sympathies. She wants action.

Will the neutrals and their directing classes let them act in this way? Will they allow them to carry back civilization to the barbarous ages when the conqueror carried the vanquished people into slavery? Will they allow the working class of a civilized nation to be annihilated?

"Be You Our Friends and Saviors."

Americans! If the others act in this way, if the world must witness again such a spectacle of cowardice, be you at least our friends and our saviors.

We will never forget that it is thanks to the United States that Belgium is not dead of hunger. We hope that, thanks to the United States of America, Belgium's working class will not be reduced to slavery worse than death.

American workmen! We do not doubt you; our cause is yours. It seems to us that if we do not tell you of the attempt which threatens us, you will reproach us some day, saying: "You had not the right to keep quiet and to suffer martyrdom in silence; you are a depository for your part of the honor of the workmen's condition. If a nation of civilized workers is reduced somewhere to servitude, all the working class is threatened. It is a terrible precedent. We workmen of free America would not have allowed a similar threat to be made. It is from slavery that the modern working class came; it cannot return to slavery!"

American brothers! We seem to hear these prophetic words of our salvation. You are numerous. You are powerful. You are energetic. You are an enormous force in the most powerful of the neutral states, the one even that imposed moderation upon the submarine war.

You alone in the world can help us efficaciously. You alone in the world can prevent an abominable crime against the working class, against yours. You alone in the world can prevent all the working class from falling into a state of slavery.

American workmen! From the bottom of our distress we look to you. Act!

As to ourselves, even if force succeeds for a time in reducing our bodies to servitude, our souls will never consent to it.

We add this: No matter what the tortures may be, we only want peace with independence of our country and the triumph of justice.

THE BELGIAN WORKMEN.
Nov. 9, 1916.

TRADES UNION DIRECTORY

Allied Printing Trades Council—R. H. Neelands, Box 66.
Barbers—S. H. Grant, 1301 Seventh avenue west.
Bartenders—W. H. Smith, Box 424.
Blacksmiths—H. Cattell, 2206 Fifteenth Ave. west.
Bookbinders—W. H. Cowderoy, 1885 Thirty-fourth avenue east.
Boilermakers—A. Fraser, 1151 Howe street.
Brewery Workers—Frank Graham, 2256 12th avneue west.
Bricklayers—William S. Dagnall, Labor Temple.
Brotherhood of Carpenters District Council—G. H. Page, Room 208, Labor Temple.
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers—L. T. Solloway, 1157 Harwood street. Seymour 1346R
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen—H. G. Savage, 1235 Hornby St.
Brotherhood of Railway Carmen—
Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees—E. Corado, 236 Clark drive.
Cigarmakers—R. Craig, care Van Loo Cigar Factory, Georgia street.
Cooks, Waiters, Waitresses—Andy Graham, Room 304, Labor Temple.
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union—Russell Kearley, 437 Gore avenue.
Electrical Workers (outside)—E. H. Morrison, Room 207, Labor Temple.
Engineers—(Steam and Operating)—W. A. Alexander, Labor Temple.
Granite Cutters—Edward Hurry, Columbia Hotel.
Garment Workers—Mrs. Jardine, Labor Temple.
Horseshoers—Labor Temple.
Letter Carriers—Robt. Wight, 177—17th avenue west.
Laborers—George Harrison, Room 220, Labor Temple.
Longshoremen—F. Chapman, 10 Powell St.
Machinists—J. Brooks, Room 211, Labor Temple.
Milk Drivers—Stanley Tiller, 812 Eighteenth avenue west.
Musicians—H. J. Brasfield, Room 305, Labor Temple.
Molders—G. F. Nichols, 121 Sixth avenue west.
Moving Picture Operators—A. A. Hanson, P. O. Box 345.
Order of Railroad Conductors—G. Hatch, 761 Beatty street.
Painters—Jas. Wilson, Room 303, Labor Temple.
Plumbers — Room 206½, Labor Temple. Phone Seymour 3611.
Pressmen—E. Waterman, 1167 Georgia St.
Plasterers—Geo. Rush, 2276 Fourteen Ave. west. Bayview 2215L.
Pattern Makers—Vancouver—E. Westmoreland, 1512 Yew street.
Quarry Workers—James Hepburn, care Columbia Hotel.
Seamen's Union—W. S. Burns, P. O. Box 1365.
Structural Iron Workers—Room 208, Labor Temple.
Stonecutters—
Sheet Metal Workers—J. W. Alexander, 2120 Pender street east.
Street Railway Employees—A. V. Lofting, 2561 Trinity street.
Stereotypers—W. Bayley, care Province.
Telegraphers—E. B. Peppin, Box 342.
Tailors—H. Nordland, Box 503.
Theatrical Stage Employees—Geo. W. Allin, Box 711.
Tilelayers and Helpers—A. Jamieson, 540 Twenty-third avenue east.
Trades and Labor Council—Victor R. Midgley, Room 210, Labor Temple.
Typographical—H. Neelands, Box 66.

GUARD INTERESTS OF WORKERS DURING SESSION

Federation Executive Consider Proposal for a Labor Lobby

Organization of Farm Labor Impossible Because of Finances

THE EXECUTIVE of the B. C. Federation of Labor held two brief business sessions at Victoria on Monday, when the coast members were in the city to present requests for legislation to the government.

Considerable business of a routine nature was transacted, covering matters arising out of the actions of the Revelstoke convention, as well as some subjects which have since arisen.

The question of keeping a representative of Labor on duty in Victoria during the session of the legislature, was discussed. It was pointed out that such action was advisable, if it could be arranged, as by this means close watch could be kept on any proposal affecting the interests of the workers, mention being made of the paragraph in the speech from the throne intimating legislation providing for a fortnightly payday for certain industries. While the proposal was viewed favorably, the question of finance prevented immediate action, and the matter was laid over.

The question of the organization of farm laborers came up on the reading of a letter from the Vancouver Trades and Labor council, enclosing a letter from an Okanagan resident, which suggested such action as advisable. Owing to lack of funds to undertake the work, the executive was compelled to turn down the suggestion.

MAY CLOSE SCHOOLS DURING FRUIT PICKING

Department of Education Outlines Provisions Covering Work.

To meet the demands of fruit growers for labor to assist in gathering and packing the 1917 crop, the provincial department of education is arranging for classes in the high schools as well as the senior and intermediate grades being closed before or after the summer holidays for a maximum period of five weeks. The provision will be made on application showing that 75 per cent. of the pupils in any class undertake to assist in the gathering of the fruit crop.

Trade unionists and their friends should always and everywhere demand the union label on their goods, wherever possible.

Send for ten sub. postal cards, each good for a year's subscription to The Federationist—$10. "Your credit is good." Pay for as sold to fellow employees.

BUSINESS AGENT DIRECTORY

Ask for Labor Temple 'Phone Exchange, Seymour 7495 (unless otherwise stated).
Boilermakers—J. H. Carmichael, care Hotel Regent, 140 Hastings street east.
Brotherhood of Carpenters—Jas. Robinson, Room 208.
Brotherhood of Carpenters—J. G. Smith, Room 208.
Electrical Workers (outside)—E. H. Morrison, Room 207. Sey. 3510.
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union—Russell Kearley, 437 Gore avenue. Office phone, Seymour 4704; residence, Highland 1344L.
Longshoremen's Association—J. Mahone, 10 Powell street; phone Sey. 6359.
Musicians—H. J. Brasfield, Room 305.
Sailors—W. S. Burns, 213 Hastings street west. Sey. 6703.
Street Railway Employees—Fred A. Hoover; cor. Main and Union. Phone Exchange Seymour 5000. Residence, Fairmont 541R.
Typographical—R. H. Neelands, Room 206.

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"The Beer Without a Peer"
So popular because it's so good. Cascade is brewed of the highest grade B. C. hops, and selected Canadian barley-malt, and is aged for months in our cellars before being offered to the public.
When You Buy CASCADE—You
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LETTERS TO THE FED.

The Worker and the War.

Editor B. C. Federationist: I have read with much interest the various articles appearing in The Federationist referring to National Service, etc., and have been expecting to see some correspondence published dealing with the subject from an angle less superficial than the one from which the writers of your articles approached it.

National Service has for its object the increasing of the efficiency of the working class, in order that men may be displaced from industry, and, consequently allowed (!) to join the army.

The Federationist takes the position that National Service should be opposed until the government sees fit to take over those industries upon which national life is based, implying thereby, to my mind, that if those industries were nationalized, the working class should submit to industrial conscription (and conscription, too, for that matter.)

The whole thing, in the last analysis, resolves itself into the question, "Has the worker, in reality, anything in the present war, to fight for?"

Those who answer that question in the affirmative state that the worker has (1) the King, (2) his country, 3) freedom, (4) justice, (5) humanity, to fight for.

Now, what country has the average working man? Surely it is not contended that he has a country in the geographical sense? In England, the rights that the feudal system gave the serfs, and later on the free peasant proprietors, began to be encroached upon toward the latter part of the 15th century. The Reformation accelerated the expropriation during the 16th century. In fact, so large were the numbers driven off the land that the first poor law became necessary in England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In spite of that, the Yeomanry, that class of independent peasants, were still numerous, but they had disappeared by the middle of the 18th century. The agricultural laborers' common land continued to be taken from him, and even up to 1831, for 3,511,770 acres of common land were stolen from them and presented to the landlords, through the medium of parliamentary devices between 1801 and 1831. In this connection it is hardly possible to refrain from mentioning an example of the clearing of the land of people that the Highlands of Scotland offers. The Duchess of Sutherland turned off the estate 15,000 inhabitants between 1814 and 1820. All their villages were destroyed and burnt, all their fields turned into pasture. British soldiers enforced this eviction. Thus the fine lady appropriated 194,000 acres that had from time immemorial belonged to the clan. She assigned the expelled inhabitants to 6000 acres on the seashore.

Towards the end of the 19th century, various schemes were brought forward for getting a part of the people back on the land. Joe Chamberlain's cry of: "Three acres and a cow," and, later, the Small Holdings Act were but the reflection of the land hunger that existed. The vast majority of the workers still remain dispossessed of the land, in which they had well-defined rights under the feudal system. In Canada the conditions are different. But here, too, the working class have no "country." A large number of the members of that class thought they did five years ago. But——

There is some difficulty, therefore, in proving that the workers have a country in the geographical sense, to fight for.

Looking at the problem from the standpoint that "country" means those institutions, conditions , etc., that are in existence in the British Empire at present it seems to me that the case of the militarist is very little better.

What institutions has the worker so much interest in that he could be asked, with any degree of logic, to fight for? The institutions of private property? Lloyd George stated in 1909 that thirteen million people in England were on the verge of starvation, and I don't think that the balance of the working class there has so much property that they are "burdened" with it. A number of small business men who thought that they were secure five years ago, are propertyless now in Canada, as well as Great Britain, and of course, the average wage plug here, like his English and German brother, never did own anything but his labor power, blankets, etc. So he should worry. And besides, they have the institution of private property in Germany; the war is not being fought to abolish it.

The church? Another great institution! The working men of the world are divided on the question of the desirability of keeping that. But in order to allay the fears of those in our ranks who wish that machine for peddling mental chloroform to be preserved, I will remind them that the church—yes, and the Salvation Army, too, exist and flourish in Germany.

Charitable institutions? What are they? Machinery for keeping the body and soul of the unemployed together when the crisis occurs—due, by the way, to the worker letting the boss take the product and pocketing a pittance himself. If it is the sentiment of those who say that the working class has something to fight for, that charity is part of that something then all I can say is that I, for one, cannot concur in it, because if there is one capitalist institution more degrading and insulting than another, it is the soup kitchen and the bread line.

The hospitals even are not above reproach in that respect, but it is waste of time to argue on that point—they have hospitals for the workman in Germany—in fact, Mr. Editor, I heard it stated from the platform lately by one who has studied the history of the various acts dealing with the treatment and compensation of injured workers—that Germany has been 15 years ahead in that respect.

And last—and least—in the category of institutions is the worker's home. What a home it is to be sure? The house that he lives in is, like that of his German brother, rented. What furniture he has, is, of course, of the cheapest variety. During the period he is fortunate to have a job, his wife and children (if he is unfortunate enough to be married) may, perhaps have sufficient clothes to protect themselves against the elements—and their corned beef and cabbage may appear regularly, but should he thrust into the ranks of the unemployed the "comfortable working man's home"—that we read about in books—turns into a mere abode with poverty and misery the outstanding features. In British Columbia a large portion of the working class earn their living under conditions that make the possession of a home an impossibility, so the meaning of the word "home" in its original sense, is unknown to them. More often "home" means a bunkhouse in the bush, with three or four nationalities all babbling in their mother tongue together—a place where the worker recuperates from the physical exertions of the day in order that he may be able to turn out on the morrow and be able to work. Where is his home when he comes to town? Are we asked to fight for the places he frequents then?

And when all's said and done, it must always be remembered that there are many, many similarities between the British worker's home and that of the German.

Are the conditions of the workers' existence—it is after all merely an existence—worth fighting for?

When he has a job, too often he is more like a mule, or perhaps a machine, than a human being. Watch the workers stream out of a factory—when the whistle blows—note their faces—tired, drawn, worried; look at their disfigurements; fingers gone, scarred, backs bent—they bear the stamp of wage-slavery. The human wrecks that are to be seen on every hand form ample testimony of the industrial conditions under which our class toil for their bread. The awful conditions that the English working class has borne, account for the degeneracy of their physique. The tendency of modern industry in this connection, may be illustrated by the figures that show the number of industrial accidents in the United States. On the average, a worker is killed at his task every 16 minutes, and there are two millions wounded every year. Peace hath her victories no less than war.

I am not aware of any Canadian statistics on this subject, but will state that the number of men here in Vancouver injured on the waterfront alone would surprise any one not acquainted with industrial conditions. In British Columbia the lumber and fishing industries employ, of course, mostly Orientals, whose standard of living does not seem to me to be worth fighting for, but it must always be borne in mind that white men who do get employment in British Columbia are constantly threatened with either being displaced altogether by Chinamen, or having to compete with the lower standard of life, and, in fact, in those classes of work which both Chinamen and white men do the effect of that competition is very noticeable.

The position of the worker in the British Empire, like the position of the worker outside of it, is getting more insecure as time goes on. The periods of prosperity, with the feverish activity in the industrial field, that goes with it, do, it is true, relieve the unemployment situation somewhat, but with the ever-increasing development of machinery and consequently the increasing productiveness of labor, the employing class find themselves with no markets for their goods sooner, relatively to the start of the prosperity period, than was formerly the case. The worker has to suffer more from unemployment than he used to. In fact, but for conditions such as the war market has created, stagnation seemed to be becoming the chronic characteristic of modern times. With so many of the workers jobless, it follows that his economic power is decreasing, and in consequence he finds himself unable to compel the employing class to raise wages at the same rate as the cost of living is going up. His standard of living is therefore sinking. These conditions are inseparable from capitalism, but they exist and are the conditions the worker is asked to fight for.

Our freedom is another thing that we are told is worth fighting for. In point of fact the worker finds his freedom limited to selling his labor power to whoever will buy it. His freedom of speech is limited to that which will not appreciably threaten the position of the master class. His press, too, must keep within the limits that are imposed upon it. He is free to walk the streets—subject, of course, to the vagrancy act. He is free to refrain from joining the army—providing that his rulers do not see fit to pass a conscription act. In every instance his much-vaunted freedom is qualified.

Now, I do not propose to enter into a lengthy elaboration of what justice is, but I take it that everyone attributes to the word a meaning that at least has some feature in common. The Daily Province, in an issue last month, had a news item entitled "Stole enough to get off." According to it, an accountant of the Canadian government immigration department stole $15,000, and was given a suspended sentence, whilst it goes on to state that a John Gordon was sentenced to five years for stealing a few sacks of flour. Does that conform to your idea of justice, Mr. Editor? When times are bad, many of the workers often vainly looking for work, find themselves, through circumstances over which they have no control, broke and many of them are arrested on a charge of vagrancy and put in prison. Is that justice? On Vancouver Island, miners were discharged by their employers for reporting gas in the mine—they were compelled by law to do so. They could get no redress from the authorities. Was that justice?

Humanity is a pretty good thing to fight for, but is one who joined the army fighting for it?

On every hand we see boys and girls working for a mere pittance. In England women and children have formed a large part of the industrial workers for years. Even here we see youg boys selling papers on the street, girls working in stores. On the north shore, and I believe in the city, too, may be seen mere kids working in productive industry. Are conditions that compel the youth of a country to become acquainted with the struggle for existence so early in life in the interests of humanity? Unemployment, hunger, disease, prisons, slums—that is what humanity has to put up with in peace times under capitalist rule, so after all, is it in its interests that the present order of society should be fought for and perpetuated?

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OCCUPATIONAL SURVEY CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS

Information Sought of Value of Industrial Conscription Is Planned

The "occupational survey" campaign, recently announced by the National Service Commission, is now being carried on throughout the Dominion, blanks having been sent to employers on which confidential information as to the operations in the various lines of industry is requested.

Press reports with reference to this campaign stated that the information was to be used for the purpose of meeting employment conditions which might arise after the close of the war. As to whether this covers the real facts of the case is a question, however, as the circular letter states that the information is desired "to enable both after-the-war and present-day problems to be dealt with intelligently and efficiently." Should such a movement as industrial conscription in any form develop, the information collected through the "occupational survey" campaign would probably be used to carry out the plan.

HIGH COST OF LIVING IN THE DAYS OF '49

A crumb of comfort may be derived by those who are complaining of the high cost of living by reading the bill of fare from "The Rest for the Weary" hotel in a western mining camp in the days of '49.

Soup—Bean, $1; oxtail, short, $1.50. Roast beef—Mexican, prime, $1; beef, plain, $1; with one potato, fair size, $1.25; beef, tame, from the States, $1.50. Vegetables—Baked beans, plain, 50c; baked beans, greased, $1; two potatoes, medium size, 50c; two potatoes, peeled, 75c.

Entrees—Sauerkraut, $1; bacon fried, $1; bacon stuffed, $1.50; hash, low grade, 75c; hash, 18 karat, $1.

Game—Codfish balls, per pair, 75c; grizzly roast, $1; jackrabbit, whole, 75c.

Pastry—Rice pudding, plain, 75c; with molasses, $1; with brandy peaches, $2.

Square meal with desert, $3. All food payable in advance to prevent argument. Gold scales at the end of the bar.

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To the Trade Unionists of Canada

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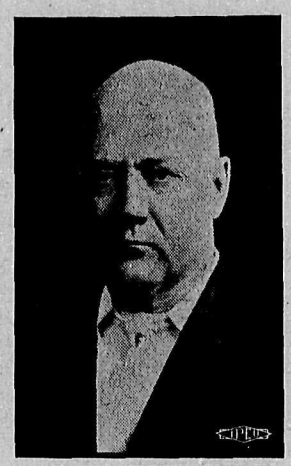
"THE GENESIS AND EVOLUTION OF SLAVERY"

By E. T. KINGSLEY



E. T. KINGSLEY

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The merit and real worth of this publication is shown by the fact that since it was issued on November 1, orders for thousands of copies have been received from all parts of the world and additional orders are coming in by every mail.

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The troublesome phases of the relations between the capitalist and the worker are dealt with in a manner which solves in plain and forceful logic many points on which the worker of today is often "at sea" when meeting arguments.

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VIEWS OF CONGRESS OFFICIAL ARE OUTLINED

Pres. J. C. Watters Makes Further Statement on Registration

Views Credited to Premier Vary from Those Given on Coast

A statement has recently been issued by Mr. J. C. Watters, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, outlining somewhat in detail the reasons for the policy followed by him in connection with the registration card plan of the National Service Commission, a question which has been very much to the front among labor organizations recently.

The statement was primarily intended for the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, being called forth by reason of the discussion of the subject by that body. It is of general importance, however, and especially to the workers of western Canada owing to the pronounced stand taken by the labor organizations of the district against the registration card proposal as compared with the attitude noted in the statement as expressing the ciews of President Watters.

The mention in the statement as to the Premier and Director of the National Service Commission emphatically saying that there was no connection between the registration card plan and conscription will come as a surprise to workers on this coast, inasmuch as both Premier Borden and Mr. R. B. Bennett both declined to make any such statement when interviewed on the point at the conference held at the Hotel Vancouver during their western trip. Neither does the mention made appear to be in complete harmony with the general drift which has been apparent since the cards were returned to Ottawa, or the public remarks of Mr. R B. Bennett and others when speaking on the work of the National Service Commission.

Text of Mr. Watters' Statement.

The statement of President Watters *reads as follows:*

"Since the recommendation made by the executive council of the Congress directing that the question cards sent out by the National Service Board be filled in correctly and in accordance with the dictates of conscientious scrupples, some criticism has been directed against the executive because of such recommendation. To meet such criticism and prevent misunderstanding, a further and more detailed statement follows:—

"At the three conventions of the Congress held since the outbreak of war, the policy adopted was to lend every assistance possible to the Allies in a mighty endeavor to secure early and final victory for the cause of freedom and democracy. This policy was qualified at the Vancouver convention by the adoption of unchangeable opposition to all that savors of conscription. At the Toronto convention the war policy of the Congress was still further modified by opposing registration.

"It is quite clear that the attitude of the Congress to the war is one which calls for every effort being made to win, but that such efforts must be of a voluntary nature. Such was the interpretation made by the executive of the action taken at each succeeding convention of the Congress, and such was the guiding principle followed in making the recommendation to answer the questions as directed.

"The opposition to registration which developed at the Toronto convention was based on the assumption that it was only a preliminary step to conscription such as had taken place in Great Britain. There is a wide difference, however between the system adopted in Great Britain and that in Canada. The purposes of the two systems are, also, very dissimilar, according to the statement made by the Premier, Sir Robert L. Borden.

What did Premier Borden say?

"The system of registration put into operation in Great Britain led to conscription, the system of registration in Canada is designed to lead away from conscription. The Prime Minister and the Director-General of the National Service Board were both emphatic in their assertions as to there being no connection between registration and conscription. They were equally emphatic as to the purely voluntary nature of the service to be rendered for military, industrial and agricultural purposes in calling on every individual to fill out the cards. The purpose, as vouched for by the First Minister of the Dominion, of the registration plan, therefore, is to secure such information as will demonstrate how and in what particular our efforts may be best directed to give effect to the declared war policy of the Congress itself.

"The order-in-council appointing the board and defining its duties conflicts in no particular with the war policy of the Congress. The opposite is the case, since the registration plan has for its avowed purpose the taking stock of the material requirements in food, munitions and all the other necessaries, including labor (man power) requisite for securing an early and final victory for the cause of freedom and democracy, without resorting to compulsory methods. The manifest duty of the Executive under the circumstances, therefore, was to recommend exactly what it did.

Labor Opposed to Conscription

"Should the government undertake to adopt military or even industrial conscription, a wholly different state of affairs would obtain. The action of the Vancouver convention, reaffirmed at Toronto, clearly sets forth the position of the Congress in unqualified opposition to conscription. In pointing out the duty of Labor to lend every possible assistance in the strife, the convention also stated that such help must be free, not forced; it must be dictated by duty and not by coercion; it must be the outcome of loyal affection for the Mother Country, for this Dominion and for those whose fates hang in the balance, and not the product of the lash, hunger, or the legalized enforcement of a people. The statement of the convention was based on the conscription of man power alone. A fair interpretation of the sentiment of the convention and of organized labor, generally, is that human values transcend material values, that human life is immeasureably more valuable than material wealth, hence the conscription of man power should only be resorted to after all wealth and the means of wealth production have been taken over and operated by and for the nation. Were wealth conscripted and the railways, mines, mills and factories necessary for the prosecution of the war nationalized, the desirability of withdrawing opposition to the conscription of man power could very properly be considered. There is, however, no indication as yet, nor is there likely to be any, that the material essentials for the prosecution of the war will be nationalized, nor that either wealth or man power will be conscripted.

"Under any circumstances, 'preparedness' should be our watchword, both to help the cause we have espoused and to combat any menace or danger to our welfare that may arise."

LABOR'S REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 1)

vise the act and, before this draft was outlined, he would consult with all parties interested in the matter in order that the new legislation might fully meet the needs of the case.

The subjects on which legislation was requested in connection with metalliferous mines were as follows:

An amendment to the Metalliferous Mines Act, which would compel the same protective measures to be taken in the case of inclined shafts and raises at an angle of 30 degrees or more as with vertical shafts.

An act to compel the equipment of mine boring or drill machinery with witer jets or sprays which would prevent the escape of dust.

Provision to compel health officers to visit all camps at least once a month, prohibition of the use of enamel ware in the preparation of food, and making it incumbent on all corporations to provide adequate medical and hospital treatment, and all necessary first aid appliances.

On behalf of the electrical workers, Mr. McVety requested regulations governing the placing of poles, wires and other electrical equipment, the purpose being to protect electrical workers.; and on behalf of the stationary engineers, asked for amendments to the Boiler Inspection Act which would prevent employment of non-certificated engineers for more than seven days in any plant, providing that no engineer shall work more than eight hours out of 24 in plants operating continuously, and various minor alterations of the act.

Mr. McVety outlined in vigorous terms the opposition of Labor to the policy of exempting church property from taxation. Its belief was that there should be complete separation of church and state. The suggestion on which the protest was made might well be termed religious legislation, and meant the indirect contribution for religious purposes by those who might be in sympathy with the propaganda conducted.

Plea for Eight-hour Day.

Mr. V. Midgley made an earnest appeal for the recognition by statute of the eight-hour day, which is now included in the legislation of many States, and is a policy to which Labor is strongly committed, as well as for the fortnightly payday.

The subjects covered by Mr. Midgley were as follows:

Establishment of a fortnightly payday with provision that at no time shall more than six days' wages be kept in hand by the employers. Pay to be made in currency.

A maximum week of forty-eight hours in all industrial occupations, eight hours per day, with the exception of Saturday which would be four hours.

Provision for an eight-hour bank to bank regulation in metalliferous mines.

Mr. W. Yates presented the requests dealing with the revision of the regulations governing the operation of electric railways, the representations covering the following points:

For the protection of the travelling public, and street railway employees, limitation of hours on street and electric railwaymen to a miximum of eight in twenty-four hours.

Provision that no motorman or conductor shall act unless he has first received at least fifteen days' instruction on the different street car lines of the city in which he is employed, such instructions to be given by a competent motorman or conductor who has had at least two years' experience as motorman or conductor on the said lines.

Strong Opposition to Poll Tax.

Mr. W. Taylor outlined the strong opposition which exists among Labor organizations against the proposed revival of the poll tax. He stated that the officials of the Federation had received a large number of strong resolutions on the subject from labor organizations in all parts of the province, leaving no doubt as to the unpopularity of the proposal. Should, however, the government be driven by financial conditions to consider the re-imposition of the tax, it was suggested that its scope be made such as would relieve persons whose names were on the voters' list. Such a plan would be an incentive for residents to have their names registered as electors and the classes who would pay the tax would be Orientals and casual laborers who came here without the intention of permanently remaining.

The government representatives appeared to be favorably impressed with the suggestions made by the speaker covering the modified scope of the poll tax provisions.

Mr. Taylor also asked for legislation for the protection of longshoremen, and the appointment of competent inspectors to inspect gears and tackle used in loading and unloading of ships.

The request for the establishment of a provincial Department of Labor, was presented by A. S. Wells, who pointed out the work which had been done in Saskatchewan, and the great value resulting therefrom.

Retail Clerks' Half-holiday.

J. H. McVety spoke with reference to the half-holiday legislation secured by the retail store clerks at the last session. He said he was advised that efforts would be made to have this act altered at the present session. Speaking on behalf of organized labor, he desired to register a protest against the alteration of the legislation as would probably be suggested.

Other matters dealt with at the conference covered the following points:

Free issuance of school supplies to all public school pupils.

Trades union wages, hours and conditions on all government contract work.

Civil service appointments to be made on principle of examinations and without regard to political affiliations.

An act to prevent the employment of white women or girls by Asiatics.

Licensing of barbers with enforcement of sanitary regulations in barber shops.

Registration and examination of plumbers, with enforcement of sanitary legislation.

AUSTRALIAN HUMOR UNCORKED IN VANCOUVER

Big Antipodean Steamship Owner Brings Cargo of Sunshine

An Illuminating Expose of Labor Tyranny In Kangaroo Land

HAVING BEEN prone to acknowledge that when it comes down to unconscious humor the German war lords get away with the entire cake and the bakery as well, The Federationist feels now compelled to confess that its judgment has been seriously at fault, and that the champion humorist is not to be found among the Germans, but among our own English-speaking tribe. And that which has caused us to come to this conclusion has been nothing less than the arrival at this port of a certain H. W. Richards of Australia. *This person was industriously interviewed* by a representative of one of the local dailies, and a veritable avalanche of information was thereby gathered, throwing a valuable light upon some things that have been occurring in that far off land. This distinguished person —and he is thus distinguished by being referred to by the interviewer as "a prominent steamship operator"—evidently holds some very pronounced views anent the iniquities and infamies that are attributable to the bold, bad Labor unions of Australia. It does indeed. And therein lies the humor of the gentleman, unconscious though he may be of the fact.

Says Premier Was Weak.

In referring to the defeat of the conscription referendum, Mr. Richards declares that Premier Hughes "showed a weakness which allowed the Labor unions to defeat conscription," because he did not follow the lead of the premier of New Zealand, who forced conscription through there, without as much as asking the electorate whether it liked it or not. In other words, Hughes should have forced conscription upon the Australians by due and effective use of the governmental club Quite logical of Mr. Richards to look at it in that light, when we consider who he is and to what class in present-day society he belongs. From his standpoint, what other purpose could there be to government except to govern, and it of course logically follows that any governing authority that would stop to consider the wishes of the governed, is thereby guilty of most deplorable weakness. But in these days when so much of rluing class security depends upon hypocrisy and deceit, it becomes indeed most humorous to discover a member of that favored class who is so dull-witted as to advocate the use of the plain old-fashioned club of ante-hypocritical days. Mr. Richards humorously remarks that the "better class of Australians deplored" the premier's "weakness." The better class, mind you. Is that not rich?

The Bad, Bad Women, Too.

He says that "the women of the better class, as well as those of the Labor element, strongly supported the anti-conscriptionists." What a shame. "I will tell you," said Mr. Richards, the "prominent steamship operator," that "where the women have the franchise, there you will have prohibition, but never conscription. Upon an issue like conscription women should not be given an opportunity of exercising their franchise, for what woman would support a bill that would send her son or husband to the firing line? They seem unable to forego those feminine characteristics and understand the urgent necessity in which the Empire called for men and more men." This appears to mean that women are so unsatisfactorily—from the Richards standpoint—constituted that they have no better sense than to prefer that their sons and husbands remain soberly and peacefully at home, rather than that they should souse themselves with booze and go forth at the word of command to kill and maim the sons and husbands of other women. At least it so appears from the humorous manner in which Mr. Richards states the case. Either that or we confess to possessing no understanding and appreciation of humor when we run across it.

Humorous Crack at Unionism.

Mr. Richards' most humorous outburst, however, comes spontaneously forth when his ire is fully aroused against that arch enemy of capitalist "peace, law and order," known as trade unionism. He sees dire tribulations ahead for himself and his precious labor-skinning tribe unless "these days of excessive wages, abused privileges, and extravagance on the part of the working classes be eliminated, and hard times set in for a period." This, he adds, "would mean the rejuvenation of Australia from a condition that, if continued, will spell nothing but disaster." No disciple of "German kultur" ever got off his chest more meaty humor than that. Probably Mr. Richards will never really know how excrutiatingly funny he actually is. Perhaps he meant to be serious, but if he did surely no one ever was guilty of a wilder shot at the target. After the glorious fix that not only Australia, but all the world is in already, as a consequence of the rule by capitalists, shipowners and others, it is cruelly humorous for even Mr. Richards to make any reference to "disaster." From the world's experience up to now, any further disaster must be considered as nothing but a joke. But of all humor that which is unconscious, that which the humorist gets off his chest without intending to be funny, is by far the most threatening to buttons that are not actually rivetted on.

One special duty we owe ourselves is, to see that the union label is on everything we buy with our wages, earned under a union wage scale.

Union Labor in Shipyards

Mayor Rolph of San Francisco recently secured control of the Bendixen shipyards at Eureka Cal. and has announced that hereafter the plant shall be operated by union labor from top to bottom. At a public banquet he declared his position as follows:—"When I acquire the Bendixen shipyard I propose to run it with union labor from top to bottom. I believe in organized labor and I believe in organized union labor. I believe that labor has a right to organize in its own behalf and I believe in collective bargaining."

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PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY
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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Trades and Labor Council.

March 11, 1892

H. Green (tinners and cornice-makers) seated as delegate.

T. Green and C. Harling appointed to interview Frank S. Dobson, who outlined a scheme for a proposed industrial association, and report to next meeting.

F. C. Cotton, M. P. P., wrote re the vote in the legislature on the bill to exclude Chinese from working in coal mines.

President Bartley and J. Andrews appointed to meet Capt. Tatlow, re assessment act amendment affecting mortgages, and procure signatures to a petition against said mortgage tax. The committee to have authority to act in conjunction with the board of trade.

President Bartley reported attending meeting of Machinists' union. They promised to affiliate with the council.

Parliamentary committee instructed to get a more detailed account from G. E. Corbould, M. P., about the number of Chinese entering the province each year.

Ald. J. L. Franklin, Messrs. H. Brooks, T. Oliver, D. J. O'Dwyer, T. Green, Robt. Cosgrove appointed a new constitution and bylaw committee.

Street Railway Strike.

The employees of the street railways of Washington, D. C., recently put up to their employers the question of the recognition of the union. One company came to an agreement with the men, but on Monday a strike was declared on the lines of the other company, resulting in the giving of only a partial service through the aid of strike-breakers.

Warning to Workingmen.

A Vancouver workingman has written to the local labor officials stating that men who are led to look to the workings of the B. C. Copper Co. at Princeton as a place of employment, should be sure of their jobs before making the trip. He says that machine miners, fitters and mechanics are often induced to go to the place, only to find that men are being laid off and that there is no work, the idea being to keep a surplus of labor available. The writer says he can speak on the subject from experience, as he is out $30 as the result of the trip.

A TRADE UNION CIGAR HUSTLER

D. J. Elmer, who owns the British Columbia end of the El Dora cigar, and who keeps them on the map in every village and town in the province, has been in the city the past few days. If every man had his smile, his persistency, and his knowledge of human nature, there would be more successful business men in western Canada. He is what is known as a "western hustler." It makes no difference to him whether he is buying a job lot of cigars or negotiating for the parliament buildings. The deal would be carried on with the utmost sang froid. He has bought chickens by the half dozen, mines worth thousands, carried through immense real estate deals, and has never changed from the same genial Dave that he was when president of the Miners' union of Moyie, B. C. If a friend needed $10 and Dave had only $2, he would hand out the two and hurry around the corner to some other friend where he could borrow eight. As an optimist he is superb, and no one has ever known him to fall into the pessimistic slough *of inocuous discutude.*—"*Old Man*" *Simpson* in The Victorian.

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Ladies' suits, made by our own tailors, of extra fine quality wool serge; fit and wear guaranteed. Special $22.50

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Special showing of Ladies' New Spring Coats, in black and white checks and fancy tweed effects. Special.....$9.50

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Fine quality embroidered Doylie Waists. Special.....$1.35

FLANELLETTE SPECIAL—Extra fine quality English Flannelette, in plain white and stripes. Regular 20c. Special, yard..... 15c

25c CURTAIN SCRIMS, 15c YARD—1000 yards of curtain scrims, in plain colors and plain with fancy floral designs. Regular 20c and 25c. Special, per yard 15c

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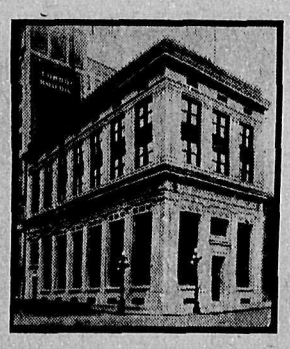

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WATERFRONT NOTES FROM THE PEN OF A WORKER

A Vancouver Longshoreman Tells of Activity Now Prevailing

Waterfront Workers Will Be "At Home" in New Quarters

[By R. C. Woodbury]

A RECENTLY-PUBLISHED dictionary of similes, edited by Frank J. Wildstach, a New York theatrical man, contains among its treasury of 15,000 comparisons drawn from such varied sources as Balzac and Billy Sunday, one by an anonymous writer, "Worked like miners in a landslide." It is quite evident that the father of this brain-child resided in an inland town and never had an opportunity to view the feverish activity displayed by knights of the hook when aiming to get a ship away on time. However, we shall let the matter stand with the mental reservation that hollow logs cannot keep pace with turbiners and neither can a dictionary of the sort be unabridged.

Statesmen consider longshoremen beneath their notice; philosophers never even mention them; neither do poets. Biologists have never considered them worthy of study and when common, ordinary, everyday writers—like Robert W. Service, for instance—mention the genus they do so casually, and then they use such qualifying and limiting adjectives as rude, rough, coarse, uneducated, uncouth, turbulent or piratical, according to the way their breakfast was cooked. However, it has been whispered of late, in very low tones, that the theories of Darwin apply in this instance, and that longshoremen are slowly but surely evolving—not into meal tickets artists—but into respectable citizens. This may or may not be due to the fact that waterfront workers are quite useful animals, and although there is a stigma attached to useful labor in any form, to call them respectable citizens is quite inexpensive.

Waterfront Activity Increases.

Next to the increase in the cost of living, the most remarkable phenomenon during the past twelve months—so far as Vancouver is concerned—was the increase in shipping. Among the important changes which this brought about was the addition to one company of a long-needed gigantic crane. The recently completed government dock, on the second occasion of its being used, was found quite inadequate, thereby demonstrating that it is not a very large white elephant. Perhaps the railway commission may inform us why no cars are forthcoming for the purpose of transporting its thousands of tons of commodities eastward.

New faces on the waterfront are many on account of more men being required to cope with the increase in shipping, as well as to replace many who enlisted, or who departed to work in ammunition factories and shipyards. There are some, however, who stick to the waterfront like barnacles to a ship's bottom.

Owing to the large increase in membership, and to the amalgamation of the lumber handlers with the general cargo workers, the headquarters on Powell street has become entirely too small, and in the near future the I. L. A. will occupy Pender Hall, which is as roomy as a warehouse, and in which once upon a time, were held dances, card parties, and even socialist meetings.

Lessons of Recent Strike.

The recent coastwise strike of longshoremen, although disastrous in the long run, resulted in an increase of wages for overtime work, which aids a little in meeting the increase in the cost of living. In spite of this and other increases in wages, during the past few years, the cost of living keeps well in advance of wages—like a fast express ahead of a handcar. Shipowners are good-natured, owing to the enormous profits they are making but are by no means inclined to be philanthropic for business and philanthropy, like water and oil, do not mix.

The outcome of the strike was, of course, due mainly to insufficient organization, and as usual in such instances, was quite educational, and therefore not lost. Matters of the sort tend to make trade unionists weigh themselves in the balances and find wherein they are wanting. Working men are proverbially optimistic, and some dream of the millenium, when all engaged in transporting passengers and freight by land and water—railroad men, sailors, longshoremen and teamsters—will be amalgamated together. But I venture to predict that by the time this has been accomplished strikes will have become illegal and militarism, both in Canada and the United States, will have made them so. That is, unless the workers arise from their slumber in the meantime.

Longshoring Is Dangerous Work.

Longshoring continues to be an extra-hazardous occupation. So much so that most accident insurance companies decline to handle this class of risks. Broken limbs are a common occurrence, and quite recently there was a case of anthrax, which, it goes without saying, was fatal.

In connection with accidents, it may be as well to mention that among the longshoremen there is marked dissatisfaction with the present Compensation Act, not only on account of the red tape attached to it, but all are agreed that it should be non-contributory, and that compensation should begin on the day the injury occurs. There will be more marked dissatisfaction if the present government is so atavistic as to revert to the hated poll tax. Anyway, it ought to be beneath the dignity of a government to indulge in a hold-up.

The I. L. A. forestalled the government as it has a sick benefit fund of its own, which is a preliminary to something better. In case of sickness or accident it looks after its members as well as circumstances will permit; in case of death it does the same, and when other arrangements have not been made, buries deceased members, using the beautiful ritual of the Western Federation of Miners.

Although times have been fairly good on the waterfront during the past eighteen months, competition for jobs is occasionally as keen as a two-edged Toledo sword, while at others longshoremen are satiated with work like a boy with delicacies at a picnic, and are as independent as the Swiss republic.

Be Good At Union Meetings.

Union bylaws are as numerous as the civic bylaws of Berlin, where it is prescribed how an umbrella must be carried by a pedestrian, and the organization controls its individual members so well that rarely is there an infraction of a law There is no capital punishment, except expulsion, and that has occurred but once since the local was organized. No member is permitted to work long hours, and all must attend meetings occasionally.

As the writer is not a sport, everyone else knows more about the I. L. A. Athletic club, and its football team than he. If any one wishes to ascertain if they possess any talent or can be sociable upon occasions, let him attend the club's next annual smoker.

The Vancouver local of the International Longshoremen's Association is provided with an efficient set of officers, who know their business as well as the fiddler at Fezziwig's ball. The local is affiliated with the central labor council, and the B C. Federation of Labor; also with its district and international and through the latter with the American Federation of Labor. It has a membership roll of 750 men, and its treasury is not empty.

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Also with V neck, plain top or with crochet yoke, **50c** and **75c.**

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Fine grade mercerized lisle, with hand crochet yoke, **$1.00.**

Pure ribbed silk with Italian silk band top, **$2.75.**

SUITS

Fine lisle with band top and beaded edge, with tight or loose knee or envelope style; these are reinforced, **$1.00.**

Fine lisle with band top, in the new envelope style, **$1.25.**

Fine mercerized lisle, with band top, crochet yoke or plain beaded edge, with tight or loose knee or the popular envelope style, and reinforced, **$1.75.**

Silk top lisle suits, in white or pink, with tight knee, band top and sleeveless, **$1.75.**

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MERCHANTS ASK REPEAL OF HALF-HOLIDAY ACT

Legislation For Maximum Week of 52 Hours Is Favored.

At a meeting of Vancouver retail merchants, held during the week, a committee was appointed to interview the provincial authorities and endeavor to secure the repeal of the half-holiday bill for retail store clerks during the present session of the legislature.

The resolution passed by the meeting, at which 60 merchants were present, reads as follows:—

"That the closing of the stores on the afternoon of any legal business day in the year is not in the best interests of business.

"That we recommend that the government be requested to abolish the present half-holiday Act.

"That the government be requested to bring in a new bill making it compulsory for all retail merchants to give their employees one afternoon off each week, excepting the weeks in which civic and legal holidays occur, also in the week preceding Christmas, and that a maximum week's work for store employees shall not exceed 52 hours."

The committee appointed to approach the government will work in conjunction with a similar committee appointed by the retail merchants of Victoria.

As noted in another column of this issue of The Federationist, the protest of organized labor against the alteration of the Act has already been made to the government, this action being taken during the conference of the executive of the B. C. Federation with the provincial members of the provincial Cabinet last Monday.

"UNION" RETAIL STORES AT PRINCE RUPERT

Firms Employing Union Clerks Display Cards To That Effect.

The Retail Clerks' union of Prince Rupert has adopted the system of distributing "union cards" for display in the stores of merchants who employ union labor in order that the purchasing public may be advised as to the suptheses merchants. A large number of Prince Rupert merchants now take pride in publicly displaying these cards.

LABOR TO GO AFTER REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL HOUSE

(Continued from page 1)

ing of two members in the house by that party and the registering of 22 per cent. of the vote of the province did not do more good than propaganda meetings? If the socialist party was no longer a factor in the province, it was a question as to whether this was due to its doctrine or its methods. There were workingmen in the province, both within and without the socialist party, who were perfectly capable of doing good work in the legislature and it was up to Labor to try and put them there. As to finances, the socialist party often did not have the money for its deposits before election day. During the last provincial election, Mr. Trotter was driven to the wall at the last moment for his deposit, and the speaker had assisted him to get the money, which was later repaid. Mr. Trotter's expenses in that campaign was only $385, and from this the council could see that a campaign fund for a Labor candidate could be raised in a few nights. The question for the council to decide was as to whether this was the psychological time to enter the field. Even if the man was not elected, good work would be done, and campaign meetings were good places for propaganda work. Personally, the speaker believed the political conditions were such as made possible a good showing for the candidate. The record made would show the wisdom of similar action in the future.

Referendum Vote Proposed.

Dels. Benson and Copping moved that the matter be referred to a referendum vote of the Vancouver unions, the organizations to also state their position as to financial support for the campaign. Mr. Benson said that while the socialists could raise campaign funds as Pres. McVety had said, this was due to the fact that they maintained a political organization, while the council did not.

Del. Miss Gutteridge referred to the probability of the bye-elections being put off until women could vote. She believed that with a real campaign, appealing to both men and women, the candidate would have a good chance.

Del. Kavanagh said he welcomed the referendum proposal as it would give a chance for propaganda work in the unions. Del. McVety said it was useless to delay action. The sooner the matter was settled and, if a candidate was to be run, his campaign was started, the better for his success.

Del. Reed thought the referendum vote a wise move. Labor had in the past often jamped too quickly and suffered afterward as a result.

The vote was then taken with the referendum proposal being defeated, and the main proposal carried as noted in the opening paragraphs of this article.

The decision as to the submission of names for candidates by the unions was made on a resolution of Del. Reed, the limit of April 19 being suggested by Secretary Midgley.

Vote on Federation Referendum.

The referendum query as to the B. C. Federation entering the political field was settled in short order. Del. Kavanagh said that as the council had decided to go part way, it might as well make the entire jump and, after a very brief discussion, the ballot was taken with a showing of 29 for and 4 against.

Applications for affiliation with the council were made by the Amalgamated Carpenters, the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers, and the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

Credentials were received and the delegates obligated as follows: Lathers, A. Surges; Amalgamated Carpenters, R. Jackson, J. Smith, R. Edwards and R. McCormack. Steam Engineers, J. P. O'Neil in place of J. Winterbottom. Civic Employees, J. McFarlane in place of J. C. Wood.

Announcement was made of the annual meeting of the B. C. Federationist, Ltd., for March 24, and the council concurred in the recommendation that the executive be instructed to vote the shares of the council at the meeting.

The staement of the B. C. Federation on the subject of conscription (given in full in last week's issue of The Federationist), was endorsed and a copy ordered to be sent to the Ottawa authorities.

Del. Watson stated that the Civic Firemen's union had engaged Del. Midgley as business agent in connection with his work for the civic employees.

President McVety reported that after interviews in which he showed that the council's work with the immigration authorities fully covered the necessary entrance of labor from across the line, a recommendation that the present order-in-council covering this field be continued had been sent to Ottawa by Dominion members from the province. He also reported having taken up with the cigarmakers the question of employing returned soldiers, the commission in charge having proposed the establishment of a cigar factory for them. He had also made representation to the civic authorities as to the Canadian Northern paying only 40 cents per hour on bridge and structural work and pile driving on False Creek, as compared with the standard wage of 45 cents.

On the discussion as to the work of the Globe Contracting Co. on the public market at Main and Hastings streets, the bricklayers reported they had decided to keep away from the job.

The council approved the revision of the constitution and bylaws as submitted by the executive. The chief alterations from the old rules is the raising of the per capita tax to 5 cents per month, payable monthly, providing for the appointment of a business agent at the discretion of the council and covering the proposal for unions of any line of industry acting as a council committee as the building trades are now proposing to do.

Roll Call of Delegates.

Statistician Cottrell reports that 60 delegates were present, as follows:

Machinists, J. Brooks, J. H. McVety, A. R. Towler and W. M. Hawthorn; civic employees, V. R. Midgley and G. Harrison; letter carriers, F. Knowles, N. Barlow, J. Cass and R. Wight; sailors' union, W. S. Burns; brotherhood of carpenters, G. Thom, J. H. Copping D. Lyons, A. McDonald, and J. Campbell; tailors, Helena Gutteridge, J. T. Ellsworth, C. S. Gren and A. R. Gatenby; milk wagon drivers, T. Errington; city firemen, A. Betts and A. Watson; garment workers, J. A. McMaster; electrical workers, F. Woodside and E. H. Morrison; steam engineers, J. O'Neill; deep sea fishermen, R. Kearley; bricklayers, W. S. Dagnall, W. J. Pipes and E. Wilde; painters, W. Knight; press assistants, F. W. Jure; typos, H. C. Benson; cooks and waiters, A. Graham; street railwaymen, E. G. Kermode, W. H. Cottrell, F. A. Hoover, J. Hubble, A. McInnes and R. E. Rigby; longshoremen, J. Kavanagh; movie operators, W. Tenney and A. C. Hansen; barbers, J. P. Ferris and S. H. Grant; printing pressmen, E. B. Stephenson; pile drivers, W. Eastman and J. Harrison; brewery workers, A. Sykes; retail clerks, C. D. Bruce and A. P. Glen; plasterers, H. Reed and S. Rush; cigarmakers, A. Kochel and H. G. Kirbitz; moulders, A. H. Donaldson; amal. carpenters, J. G. Smith; plumbers, F. W. Welsh; boot and shoe workers, T. Corey. Sixty members present.

WORKERS IN EXPLOSIVES PLANT GO ON STRIKE

300 Employees of Canadian Explosives Co. State Case to Government

.... The employees at the James Island plant of the Canadian Explosives Co. on Vancouver Island, to the number of 300, walked out last Saturday morning as the result of a dispute with their employers concerning hours and working conditions. The men came to Victoria, where they presented their case to Messrs. G. H. Barnard, M.P., and R. F. Green, M.P. The Dominion members approached the employers in behalf of the men, but District Manager Moore is said to have flatly refused to consider their requests.

The men are asking for a six-day week, shorter working hours, and the sanitary improvement of the quarters provided for them, as well as proper food at reasonable rates.

At a conference with Premier Brewster on Monday, it was stated that the sleeping quarters allotted the men were unhealthy and the food furnished was unfit to eat. On these points the Premier promised that an investigation would be made and, if matters were found as represented, the government would take steps to remedy conditions.

In their interview with Messrs. Barnard and Green, the men outlined their demands as to working hours and extra pay for overtime, making it plain that Sunday and overtime work was not favored.

The "company town" maintained at the James Island plant is also objected to by the men, and at a meeting on Sunday, they sent a resolution up to the government asking for legislation which would prohibit arrangements of this character.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN UPPER COUNTRY COAL MINE

Complaints Made As to Operations of Working in Drumheller District.

Reports coming from the coal mines in the Drumheller district indicate the existence of conditions at the Rosedale mine, which would appear to warrant investigation. It is said that an internment camp for Austrians is located at the point, and that, if an Austrian asks the company's office for his time, he is told to get back to work or the mounted police will be put after him, and he will be locked up.

The wage scale paid at this mine is said to be from $1 to $2 per day less than that paid at other mines in the Drumheller district, the men engaged on company work getting from $2 per day up, with only a few receiving $3. As far as the Austrians are concerned, it is possible they may never receive anything. With reference to wages paid others than miners, it is said that a good carpenter is paid only $2.50 to $3 per day.

The attitude of the owners of the mine toward unionism may be judged when it is stated that a union man is not allowed to cross the bridge leading to the workings.

In some cases the miners are obliged to go to the bunkhouse to wash, and is then provided with only cold water, this being a violation of section 87 of the Mines Act, which provides that where more than twenty men are employed underground, accommodation for washing and changing of clothing shall be made in convenient places other than the engine room or boiler house.

MEETING OF ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL

Asked That Union Label Be Demanded on Photo Engravings.

Last Monday evening the Vancouver Allied Printing Trades council held its regular meeting in Labor Temple. President Geo. Bartley occupied the chair, and the attendance of delegates was very encouraging.

C. Homewood and H. F. Langham presented credentials from the Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' union, and they were duly obligated as representatives of that organization.

Trade was reported fair in all branches affiliated with the council.

As well as urging a demand for the Allied printing label, the council wishes to draw attention to the label of the Photo Engravers' union, with a request that those purchasing cuts of any description insist upon it being stamped thereon. At present there are four photo engravers employed in Vancouver. An active demand for union product only would soon increase that number sufficiently to enable them to secure a charter and organize a local union. Ask for the label.

OFFICES OF DISTRICT 18 CHANGED TO CALGARY

District To Hold New Election of Officers After Calgary Conference.

At the recent convention of District 18, Western Federation of Miners, held at Fernie, it was decided to remove the head office from Fernie to Calgary, this location being deemed more central and convenient for the transaction of business.

The convention debated at some length the questions arising as the result of the ballot for district officials, a movement developing for the turning down of the tellers' final report. The question was finally settled by continuing in office the officials returned by the tellers until after the Calgary conference with the employers was concluded, when another election will be held.

The district officials are now in Calgary, conferring with the operators on the terms of a new agreement to take the place of the one which expires on March 31. The operators refused last week to consider the demands of the men, but on Tuesday conferences were resumed and are still in progress.

Dr. Robert Telford will speak on "Proportional Representation," at the meeting of the Open Forum on Sunday afternoon at 2.30, in the O'Brien hall. W. J. Curry will be chairman.

St. Louis Labor says:—"There have always been two classes of labor leaders: the one class fighting bravely and fearlessly the battles of the working class, the other lickspittling with the capitalist employing class to the detriment of a healthy, clean labor movement." Sure thing. The first mentioned is a danger and a threat to the slave masters and robbers of our time. The latter is one of the chief bulwarks of the capitalist regime of robbery and rapine, for it always steers the labor movement away from all action that in any manner threatens the property rights of masters in the souls and bodies of slaves. It represents the most sinister and reactionary influence in the labor world of this profit hungry age. It is the chief obstacle in the pathway of a real and virile labor movement.

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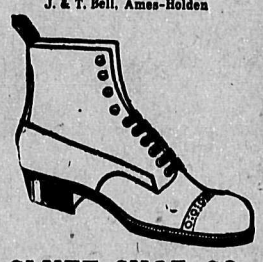

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